FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS MEETINGS, COMMENTS ON IRAN, ARAB SITUATION

Interview in Abu Dhabi

JN232040 Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1755 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 February--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that the talks he held today with UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan were constructive and successful. They dealt with the various current issues facing the Arab world and the gulf area.

In an exclusive interview with the EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY and the UAE television service in Abu Dhabi, 'Arafat said that the talks were held in a clear and frank atmosphere. We sensed a ready response from his highness the president on all topics discussed during the talks.

In the interview Mr 'Arafat spoke about the impressions he gained during his visit to Iran. He said that the Iranian revolution is linked to the Arab nation with deep Islamic bonds and the bond of the holy Koran. He pointed out that the impressions he gained during his visit to Iran went beyond his expectations.

The text of the interview is as follows:

Question: In your capacity as the first Arab leader to visit Iran after the recent developments, what are your impressions, following your meetings with Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Iranian officials, regarding Iran's new policy in general and its expected stands on the Arab situation?

Answer: The faithful Islamic Iranian revolution is linked to the Arab nation with the deepest bond that of Islam. We are also linked by the strongest bond, God almighty's holy book, the holy Koran. In my opinion, this relationship will be further consolidated as we proceed from our one creed, one faith and our common existence.

Question: How you do visualize future Arab-Iranian relations, following results of your visit to Iran?

Answer: I leave this subject to my Iranian brothers. However, I was satisfied with the results of this visit. Everything that I saw in Iran was above my material expectations and within my spiritual expectations. The new regime in Iran has rectified relations with the PLO.

Question: In your opinion, what is the future role that Iran might be able to perform in support of Arab rights in Palestine?

Answer: The friendship that links the Iranian and Palestinian revolutions is tremendous. We are two revolutions in one and two peoples in one.

Question: Can you shed some light on the objectives of your current tour of the Arab Gulf states?

Answer: I am not making a tour of the gulf states. After my visit to Iran I called His Highness Shaykh Zayid on the telephone and told him that I was coming here on a private visit to hold talks of a private nature with him. These talks dealt with current developments in this area on the local, Arab and international levels. Naturally, we also touched on several other issues that need not be made public.

Question: What about the results of your talks this morning with his highness the president?

Answer: The talks were constructive and successful and dealt with various topics. As usual, Shaykh Zayid was frank with his Palestinian brothers and we were frank with him. The long session was extremely beneficial. We discussed all the issues in total fraternity and complete clarity. We sensed his response and readiness regarding everything discussed.

Message To UAE President

NC250924 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 25 Feb--It was stated here today that during this short visit to Abu Dhabi the day before yesterday, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, a message from Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni and leaders of the Iranian Government. The message indicated that the current trend of the Iranian Government is to categorically and finally drop the theory of expansion which was adopted by the former regime.

Quoting a responsible Palestinian source, the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published in Abu Dhabi, today says this means that the Iranian Government will make a comprehensive review as soon as possible of all the expansionist measures adopted and agreements concluded by the former regime. They include the agreements related to smaller Tunb, greater Tunb and Abu Musa Islands, which belong to the UAE and which Iran occupied after the British withdrawal in 1971. The Iranian Government will also review all the agreements related to the oil in these islands.

Quoting the same Palestinian source, the paper adds that the message expresses the desire of the new regime in Iran not only to establish good neighborly relations with the UAE but also to establish deeper relations because of the bonds of fraternity in Islam, opposition to Zionism and the upholding of the Palestinian cause which link the two countries.

Return to Beirut 23 Feb

JN240643 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived in Beirut last night following a short visit to the UAE, where he met with Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan.

Military Council Meeting

JN241649 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] This afternoon brother Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, presided over a meeting of the general military council of the Al-'Asifah forces. Attending the meeting were brothers Abu Jihad and Abu Salih, Fatah Central Committee members and members of the Al-'Asifah forces General Command; and brother Brig Gen Abu Al-Walid, commander of the central operations room.

During the meeting, Abu 'Ammar spoke about the latest developments in the current political situation and the results of his historic visit to Iran.

Meeting With Fatah Cadres

JN250638 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 05530 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar met in Beirut yesterday with the cadres of the Fatah political and military organs and departments. He reviewed the results of his historic visit to Iran, the repercussions of the Iranian revolution's triumph in the area and the strategic relations between the Palestinian and Iranian revolutions.

Speaking about the resumption of the treasonous negotiations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy, brother Abu 'Ammar said: These negotiations are a continuation of the imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against our people's cause, legitimate rights and just struggle.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also spoke about the situation in southern Lebanon and cautioned against a new aggression being prepared by the Zionist enemy.

At this meeting brother Abu 'Ammar also touched on the current conflict in Southeast Asia.

Fatah Central Committee, Council Meetings

JN260620 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 26 Feb 79 JN

[Text] The Central Committee of Fatah held a lengthy meeting yesterday. Brother leader Abu 'Ammar attended. The committee discussed a number of important issues and developments in the present situation on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels. The committee also discussed the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon, as well as developments in the Zionist-Egyptian contacts under the auspices of the American administration, especially the new tripartite plot that is being hatched by the parties to the Camp David agreement.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council also held a meeting last night. The meeting was attended by the commander in chief and members of the Central Committee. Developments in the current situation were discussed. Abu 'Ammar informed the Revolutionary Council of the results of his visit to Iran and developments in the relations between the Palestinian and Iranian revolutions.

AL-MAWQIF Interview 25 Feb

NC251812 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1535 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's interview with Lebanese magazine AL-MAWQIF published on 25 February--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Question: How do you assess the work of the Palestine National Council [PNC] in relation to the high hopes attached to it?

Answer: The 14th session of the Palestine National Council achieved great success in fulfilling the Palestinian high hopes pinned on it in regard to the main topics discussed. The council unanimously approved the phased organizational and political program. This means that political unity has been established among the revolution's factions. Everyone is now committed in theory and practice to the phased political objectives spelled out in the political program. This unanimity confirmed the independence of the Palestine revolution. This independence manifested itself during the council meetings confirming to all that the Palestinian revolution absolutely rejects any mortgaging of its will or its decision under any pretext or slogan.

Question: After the statements of Andrew Young and Saunders about the Palestine question there appeared two points of view. The first says that this is merely an American tactic and the other says that it indicates that the Camp David agreements have failed and that it also is a trial balloon. What do you say?

Answer: The American statements regarding the PLO go through periods of ebb and tide. In both cases they are addressed to the Arab regimes concerned with or completely or partly against Camp David. Our view is that this is merely a maneuver meant to absorb some of the Arab and non-Arab support for us. We do not see in these statements any serious endeavor to establish peace. These maneuvers of the U.S. administration are exposed. The U.S. administration is not contemplating any serious move to promote real peace when it overlooks or ignores the Palestinian people and their sole representative, the PLO.

Question: The resolutions of the summit conference of the steadfastness and confrontation states called for the consolidation of PLO-Syrian relations. Then came the Syrian-Iraqi Charter of Joint National Action. How do you view the relations between the two states of the charter and the PLO?

Answer: We see the National Charter as a part of the Arab efforts to confront the American settlement and Camp David, the current link in this settlement. We consider the Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement as a natural extension of the Syrian-Iraqi National Charter. The only common ground for the relations is one of struggle and clear programs against the Zionist and imperialist enemies. This is how we understand this strategic rapprochement and its great influence on the Palestinian revolution's strength and victory along the road of liberating Palestine.

Question: Can the current Palestinian-Jordanian dialog be considered as a sort of paving of the way for the desired independent Palestine state, or is it only for the purpose of rectifying Palestinian-Jordanian relations after the recent Arab developments?

Answer: The aim of the dialog with Jordan is to strengthen the revolution's role in the struggle against the Israeli enemy on the basis of the Rabat and Baghdad summit resolutions. We believe that enabling the Palestinian revolution to play its role on the Jordanian front would strengthen the overall Arab steadfastness against a Zionist-imperialist settlement.

Question: Is the Palestinian revolution a party to the Lebanese crisis and are you, now, an observer party, a participating party, or a party that interferes when circumstances make it possible?

Answer: For over 2 years the Palestinian revolution has been facing a Zionist-American plot in Lebanon. The plotters have been able to recruit some Lebanese forces to serve them. We have been and still are in a state of self-defense as well as defense of our people and our camps. The plot continues in various forms. What we ask is that some Lebanese forces with links here or there should realize that their part in serving this Zionist-American plot does not and will not serve Lebanon in any way; nor is it in the interest of the Arabs.

Question: How do you reconcile your chairmanship of the PLO and your chairmanship of Fatah when there is disagreement; whose side do you take?

Answer: First I am not the chairman of Fatah. I am the commander in chief of its armed forces and I am its official spokesman. In Fatah our framework is different from others. My position in the PLO and my position in Fatah are completely harmonious. Like Fatah, the PLO is in the heart of the struggle and action. There is no room for a separation of the two positions. To me they are one position.

Question: You have said that the Iranian revolution has turned the American equation upside down strategically, not merely militarily or tactically, in the Middle East. Do you believe that this change in the equation will lead to the failure of the Camp David agreements and to U.S. recognition of the PLO?

Answer: The Iranian revolution heralds a new era in the region. So, it is more than just a point in our favor in the struggle. It has torpedoed the balance of powers on the basis of which the Camp David agreements were signed. The Iranian revolution is a strategic rectification of the balance of powers and relations. It is more like an earthquake that has hit the Middle East. Its effects go beyond the Camp David agreements and the calls for amending them or for improving their terms. It is an earthquake that basically hits the parties to this settlement. This is what matters now. This does not prevent the United States from thinking about expanding the Camp David bloc but after the Iranian revolution this is difficult for the United States.

QADDUMI MEETS ITALIAN OFFICIAL, INTERVIEWED ON IRAN

Visits Foreign Minister Forlani

JN231618 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], PLO Political Department head, met last night with Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Arnaldo Forlani. They reviewed the latest developments in the current Middle East situation.

Brother Abu al-Lutf arrived in the Italian capital from Paris yesterday afternoon, following a 3-day visit to France where he held talks with senior French officials.

Interviewed on Iran, U.S.

AU241623 Rome ANSA in English 1530 GMT 24 Feb 79 AU

[Text] Rome, February 24 (ANSA)--Faruq Qaddumi, the Palestinian Liberation Organization's "foreign minister" has said that the PLO wanted to use its power in a positive way, to bring peace and stability to the entire Middle East. In an interview appearing in today's CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Qaddumi outlined the topics he discussed Thursday with Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani.

With the new situation in Iran, he told the Milan daily, the PLO can now count on the support of a huge nation of 37 million people which is also important for its resources and its geographical position. In practice, Iran compensates PLO for the loss of Egypt, he said.

As for oil used as a political weapon, Qaddumi said that "we do not want to punish our friends in Europe and in other parts of the world. The important thing is that Iranian oil is not given to Israel" considering the fact that the Jewish state does not recognize "the rights of our people," Qaddumi said.

"We will use the new balance of forces in a responsible way," he continued. He said that the PLO was not out to harm anyone and that the well-being of the entire world was dear to Palestinians, who, however, wanted the world to recognize their existence.

There are Israelis, even within the government, who realize that their situation has reached a dead end, Qaddumi continued. "They have an inflation rate of 50 percent, while repression, reprisals, torture and all the other means used no longer suffice to keep control over the political situation," the PLO official said. As a result, some Israeli leaders have changed their tune, but so far nothing concrete has come of it, he said.

The PLO official went on to say that the United States has understood that the situation in the Mideast has changed. Every now and then there are encouraging hints from America, but these are later contradicted by facts, Qaddumi said. "In reality, America lacks clear ideas and initiative," he concluded.

MAHMUD RIYAD CALLS FOR END TO YAR-PDRY FIGHTING

LD251754 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1733 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh--The Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad has called on the YAR Government and the PDRY to work for the cessation of armed activities along their common border.

The Arab League secretary general expressed his profound anxiety regarding the tense situation between the two Yemens.

In a statement he issued in Riyadh today, Mahmud Riyad called on everybody to exercise self-restraint so that a suitable climate can be provided for the efforts currently being made for a settlement of the differences in a constructive spirit and in an atmosphere of brotherhood.

It is noteworthy that the Arab League secretary general arrived earlier today in Riyadh to attend the meetings of the Arab Economic Council which will begin in Riyadh tomorrow.

OMAN

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES PRESENCE OF EGYPTIAN FORCES

JN251410 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 25 February--The Sultanate of Oman today denied the presence of any Egyptian forces on its territory. This was contained in a statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry in which it expressed Oman's complete readiness to defend its land. The statement added: Oman's military authorities are completely ready to defend the homeland's soil and to protect its national sovereignty against foreign aggression. The statement further said that Oman will consider asking the support of its brothers if the need arises.

It will be recalled that press reports earlier said that Egyptian forces are present on Oman territory.

FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCES PDRY'S INCURSION INTO YAR

JN251457 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 25 February--Today the Sultanate of Oman, through its Foreign Minister Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im az-Zawawi, denounced the PDRY's incursion [tadakhkhul] into the YAR. Az-Zawawi said: Stemming from our belief in the principle of noninterference in others' affairs, we strongly condemn the flagrant incursion into the YAR by the PDRY Government. Az-Zawawi called on the Arab states to condemn this aggression and said: We call on the brothers in the Arabian Peninsula to realize the gravity of this situation.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON POSTPONED

ID231916 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Feb 79 ID

[Text] Washington, 23 February--It has been decided to postpone the visit which Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and crown prince, was scheduled to pay to the United States 13 and 14 March.

According to a statement issued by the Saudi Embassy in Washington, the postponement--made with the agreement of the two governments--is intended to give both sides time to make a comprehensive study of the various questions of common interest to be discussed during the visit.

Prince Fahd's visit to Washington is to be in response to an invitation from President Jimmy Carter for the continuation of the dialog on a number of issues and for consultation and cooperation on all that will bring good to the two friendly countries.

Foreign Minister's Statement

NC252055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 25 February--Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has denied that the postponement of the visit of Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to the United States is due to the delay in receiving the F-15 planes. In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH AL-MUNAWARAH, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal also denied that recent events in the area had any direct or indirect effect on the postponement of the visit.

YEMEN--PDRY

FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUES STATEMENT ON FIGHTING WITH YAR

ID241418 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 79 ID/EA

[Text] Our armed forces and popular militia have repulsed a treacherous military attack launched by the San'a' regime at 1700 yesterday against the PDRY region in Mukayras, on the borders of the Third Governorate, and in Bayhan.

A statement issued by the PDRY Foreign Ministry says that the battles were still going on when the statement was issued. It said reports indicate there are big military build-ups in Ibb and Ta'izz to send troops to the border with the intention of launching an attack on the PDRY.

The statement holds the San'a rulers fully responsible for exploding the situation by launching this military attack. It urges our Yemeni masses in the north and south to confront the ruling clique in San'a', expose its new aggressive role, stand firm at this time so as to thwart its plan and teach the agents an unforgettable lesson.

The statement affirms that the PDRY Government, the Yemeni masses in both parts of the region and their nationalist forces are capable of confronting this new plan which is being implemented by the San'a' rulers. It adds that all imperialist and reactionary attempts to harm our national sovereignty will fail completely, as have all the conspiracies hatched against our people and our democratic nationalist regime in the past.

The statement says the PDRY Government reserves its full right to defend the sovereignty of its territory and its national independence and to repulse aggression. The San'a' rulers must bear responsibility for all the consequences of their military adventure before our Yemeni people and history.

People's Assembly Condemnation

ID241856 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 79 ID/EA

[Excerpts] The Supreme Peoples Assembly held an extraordinary session this morning chaired by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the People's Assembly Presidium. In the session the assembly discussed developments in the situation in the northern part of the homeland, the aggression of the San'a' regime against some of our border areas, the visit of the brother secretary general of the Central Committee to certain Arab countries, and the second 5-year economic and social development plan.

Brother Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the People's Assembly Presidium, made a statement in which he voiced the council's condemnation of the aggression perpetrated by the troops of the reactionary regime against our border areas. Brother Muhsin pointed out that the government of the revolution had made several initiatives to settle differences and stop the hysterical campaigns of the San'a' regime. He explained that all the initiatives were aimed at curbing the impetus toward war and to prevent a war between the two parts of Yemen, since only the enemies of the Yemeni people would profit thereby. Basically, such an occurrence would only serve the reactionary forces in the area. Brother Muhsin affirmed that these attempts were met with intransigence and rejection from the San'a' rulers.

Mushin also affirmed the PDRY's ability to defend its sovereignty and independence, and the country's adherence to its position of preventing the occurrence of war in the homeland. He pointed to the just and legitimate struggle of the Democratic National Front against the regime in the northern part of the homeland and said that the front has succeeded in forging ahead, consolidating its position and increasing its strength. He affirmed that the front bore the responsibility of standing up to the regime, changing it and bringing about a nationalist regime through which the unification of the two parts of Yemen could be achieved, thereby making a united, independent and prosperous democratic Yemen.

The secretary of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium in his statement affirmed the PDRY's support for the just struggle waged by the Democratic National Front. He added that the morning session welcomed the results of the visits made by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, the secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee and chairman of the People's Assembly Presidium, to a number of Arab countries and described them as positive and fruitful.

Fighting in Al-Bayda'

JN241434 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] The people's revolutionary forces affiliated with the Democratic National Front in the northern part of the homeland issued a military communique today saying: Since yesterday evening the people's revolutionary forces have been waging fierce battles with the agent San'a' regime's forces in Al-Bayda' and Al-Wazi'iyah. The people's revolutionary forces were able to occupy military positions of the San'a' agent regime in these areas and seized large quantities of both heavy and light weapons. Officers and soldiers of the army units in these areas joined the people's revolutionary forces, which forced the fascist forces to retreat. The people's revolutionary forces continue to besiege Al-Bayda' city after gaining control of the area of [name indistinct]. The people's revolutionary forces are fighting side by side with many citizens of Al-Bayda' Province, who stood up to confront the agent regime's forces and toppled its positions there one after another. A Democratic Front spokesman has appealed to all the people's masses [words indistinct] to stage a popular and military uprising against the regime [words indistinct] and to confront all the barbaric military campaigns, whose aim is to kill the citizens and [passage indistinct].

Successes in Al-Bayda', Al-Waziiyyah

Id251346 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Feb 79 ID/EA

[Excerpts] The Command of the Revolutionary People's Forces in the northern part of the homeland today announced the capture of the town of Al-Bayda'. A military communique said this was achieved after fierce fighting against the forces of the agent regime with the support of the popular masses and the patriotic soldiers and officers in Al-Bayda' Province, who joined in under the banner of the Democratic National Front [DNF].

The Command of the Revolutionary People's Forces also issued a communique on the heroic battles they fought last night against the principal positions of the agent San'a' regime's forces in Al-Wazi'iyyah area. The revolutionary people's forces succeeded in taking control of posts formerly held by the reactionary regimes forces. They also captured large numbers of military vehicles and equipment. The reactionary regime's forces lost large numbers of dead or wounded, while the revolutionary people's forces were still advancing toward the principal positions of the agent regimes forces to tighten their control over them and over all other areas of Al-Waziiyyah.

The Command of the Revolutionary People's Forces in the north of the homeland has also announced that they are in full control of the positions of the reactionary regime in Ibb Province in (Najd al-Jami) and (Dimith); they have also besieged Jabal al-Masar, where they captured large quantities of heavy and light weapons, including an armored car. They destroyed 15 military vehicles and 6 heavy guns.

PDRY REPORTEDLY AGREES TO ARAB LEAGUE EMERGENCY MEETING

LD251906 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh, 25 February--Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyah has told the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY that the PDRY has agreed to the YAR's request for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council. He said that the league will make the necessary arrangements for the place and time of this meeting. This evening Mahmud Riyad had talks with PDRY Foreign Minister Muhammad Salih Muti on recent events between the two Yemens.

ISMA'IL ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON YSP CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION

LD232051 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD/EA

[Excerpts] Brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly Presidium, has issued a press communique on the results of the third extraordinary session of the Central Committee held 21 and 22 February. The Central Committee discussed developments in the situation in the Yemeni area, the results of the visit by our delegation led by brother 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il to some Arab countries, and the second 5-year plan for economic and social development.

The Central Committee studied a report of the Political Buerau on the latest events in the Yemeni homeland and the current incitement and provocations by the ruling regime in San'a' to sow the seeds of infighting and instability in various areas of the northern part of the homeland, including [word indistinct] areas, and all that this reflects, namely, a threat to the progressive nationalist regime in the south.

The press communique issued by the brother secretary general explains that the Central Committee has become convinced that whenever the San'a' regime comes under pressure from the mass struggle led by the Democratic National Front, and whenever it feels its stifling isolation from the masses, it resorts to escalating aggression and provocations against the progressive nationalist regime with the aim of turning all the Yemeni territories into a center of tension so as to give wider room to imperialist and reactionary forces to interfere in the internal affairs of the Yemeni people. This is also a desperate attempt to cover up aspects of the regime's weakness because of the collapse of its structure, the mass tide of opposition and the loss of basic reasons warranting its survival and continuation.

The Central Committee stressed the continued efforts by the Political Bureau and the government of the revolution to enable our Yemeni people to avert the woes of war and destruction to which the San'a' rulers are rushing. The Central Committee expressed regret that the efforts made in the past by the Political Bureau and the government of the revolution, through initiatives and mediations to create peace and stability in Yemen, have been met by the San'a' rulers with the escalation of aggression and an intransigent stand.

Such a stand will enable the enemies of our Yemeni people to exploit the conflict in the Yemeni area and kindle the flames of war between the sons of the single Yemeni people so as to serve their designs for gaining control of the resources of our people and seeking to liquidate the Yemeni revolution.

The secretary general's communique points out that the terrorist practices of the San'a' regime against the nationalist movement and the sons of the single people have reached unbelievable proportions. The border provocations against our progressive regime have escalated to a point that portends danger and explosion of infighting between the sons of the single Yemeni people.

The Central Committee stressed that the efforts of all honorable nationalists should be directed toward curbing the aggressive rashness of the San'a' rulers. The Central Committee also considers that the YSP and the Democratic National Front and all honorable nationalists concerned with the unity of the homeland should play a role befitting the vanguard position they occupy in the movement of the Yemeni revolution so as to achieve Yemeni unity with its democratic nationalist meaning, defend the Yemeni revolution, ward off the dangers of war, consolidate stability and security, eliminate all manifestations of oppression, enslavement and reactionary manipulation, and establish an independent Yemeni society free of all forms of exploitation.

YEMEN--YAR

CABINET ISSUES STATEMENT ON FIGHTING WITH PDRY

JN241804 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

["Text" of statement issued by YAR Cabinet following an emergency meeting on the morning of 24 February under 'Abd al-Karim 'Abdallah al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, attended by Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani]

[Text] The YAR Council of Ministers has followed the developments on the border between the two parts of our country for the past few weeks with grave concern. The council affirms its support for President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the armed forces, for his wise decision expressed in the orders issued to all our armed forces, security forces and popular forces, counseling patience and insisting on no response to the repeated and continued aggressions launched by the forces of the agent authorities in Aden. This stems from his desire to spare the Yemeni people's blood and to foil the implementation of the plot aimed at drawing the two parts of Yemen into internecine fighting and to transform the two countries into an arena for bloody warfare.

The Council of Ministers wishes to explain the whole situation to the Yemeni people and to the Arab public. The council would like to announce that last Tuesday the agent authorities in Aden began pushing their forces to Ad-Dali' to concentrate their heavy artillery, tanks and rockets against our positions in Qa'tabah and Jabal Murays in order to provide cover for the forces it sent to that region. The agent Aden authorities' aggression was not confined to Qa'tabah and Jabal Murays but escalated to other areas, where the agent Aden authorities' forces launched intensive attacks on our forces on the border yesterday.

In view of these latest developments, which threaten to escalate the situation between the two parts of Yemen and bring great dangers, the Council of Ministers would like to call all the Yemeni people to uphold their national responsibilities and to call the Arab brothers to uphold their pan-Arab responsibilities. The council expresses its support for Lt Col President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's instructions to continue our policy of patience and wisdom in order to preserve our people in the two parts of Yemen.

The council would like to make it clear that the YAR cannot continue facing these flagrant violations with wisdom and the repeated aggressions with forbearance and patience. The YAR will not be responsible for any escalation that might result from this situation unless the aggression launched by the agent Aden authorities against our borders stops.

The council has decided that all deterrent actions must be taken to teach the aggressors unforgettable lessons in our defense of our territories and citizens. The council places itself at the disposal of brother President Salih in order to carry out any tasks that he might require of us or of any minister.

The YAR holds the agent Aden authorities completely responsible for the results that might arise from its continued policy of plots and aggression. We preserve our right to defend our territorial integrity and our citizens. The aggressor will ultimately be punished.

Capture in Al-Bayda'

JN242018 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Our armed forces and popular forces have captured three tanks and four armored cars with their soldiers and weapons from the southern forces, which attempted to infiltrate our armed forces' positions in Al-Bayda' province. Three hundred soldiers of the southern forces joined our armed forces in Al-Wazi'iyyah. They fled from the Aden ruling clique and refused to carry out its orders to fight their brothers in the armed forces and security forces in the northern part of the country.

The brother president and leader has issued orders that all those who arrived in the northern part of the country must be received and treated as brothers by the armed forces. They will be given safe conduct.

Call for Emergency Meeting

JN241823 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] The YAR has asked for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the repeated aggressions of the forces of the ruling clique in Aden against the citizens in the border regions. The SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the YAR has instructed its representative to inform Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyadh of the YAR request for the dispatch of a military commission representing the Arab League to learn the facts in the border region between the two parts of Yemen, to witness the aggressions launched by the agent ruling clique in Aden against the border regions of northern Yemen and to view the military concentrations massed at the borders by the agent clique.

Arab League Factfinding Mission

JN251230 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has told the SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the Foreign Ministry has received a cable from the YAR permanent representative to the Arab League to the effect that a factfinding mission from the Arab League is on its way to closely inspect the regions which have been exposed to aggression by the Aden ruling clique on the border between the two parts of Yemen.

The YAR welcomes the mission, which will learn the facts about the aggression and the crimes committed by the agent clique in Aden. The government will facilitate the mission's tasks and will offer all possible information and help to it.

The spokesman added that the border regions are still being exposed to intensive fire from various weapons used by the regular forces and the militias belonging to the Aden ruling clique. Several civilians have been killed and many inhabited villages near the border threatened.

President's Visit to Army Camps

JN251751 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, presided over a meeting this morning attended by senior army and security officers.

Later in the day, the brother president visited the 7th Armored Brigade, the 1st Armored Brigade and the air force. He was received by officers and NCO's who acquainted the president with the work done at these camps. He also acquainted himself with the conditions of the officers and NCO's. He urged them to exert strenuous efforts in defense of the revolution and the republic and of their development gains.

KHALIL LEAVES U.S. FOR CAIRO; TO STOP OVER IN LONDON

NC260708 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 26 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Washington, 26 February--Egyptian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil left Washington for London at 0530 Cairo time today.

Dr Khalil was seen off at Andrews Air Force Base by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Harold Saunders and U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Hermann Eilts.

Cyrus Vance accompanied Dr Khalil from the house of Egypt's ambassador to Washington, Dr Ashraf Ghurbal, to Andrews Air Force Base. Earlier the U.S. secretary of state and a number of officials attended a dinner hosted by Dr Ghurbal in honor of Dr Khalil and his delegation.

Dr Khalil will spend 1 night in London and then leave for Cairo, where he will arrive Tuesday evening. All members of the Egyptian delegation, except Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and the director of his office, Ambassador 'Ala' Khayrat, who will stay in Washington for a 4-day private visit, have accompanied Dr Khalil.

Before leaving Washington for Andrews Air Force Base to board the private Egyptian plane, Dr Khalil held a separate meeting with Cyrus Vance at the house of the Egyptian ambassador.

The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned from U.S. sources directly connected with the Camp David negotiations during the past 4 days that the negotiators have made good progress in preparing technical drafts of the documents under discussion. The correspondent has further learned that these documents, eight in all, include some maps. These sources add that after a comprehensive and detailed discussion, the three sides which participated in the discussions discovered that there are three or four points on which a decision must be made.

These sources point out that the development of the discussions made it necessary to invite Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to lead his country's delegation in parallel with Dr Mustafa Khalil, who has been given full powers by President Anwar as-Sadat to continue with the negotiating process until the end. According to these sources, Moshe Dayan said during the discussions that the Israeli Cabinet has not empowered him to make any decisions and that the matter requires the presence of Begin personally in order that the representation may be on the same executive level as that of the Egyptian prime minister, Dr Mustafa Khalil.

At a time when the United States is waiting for Israel's official reply to the invitation of President Carter to resume the discussions at the end of his week, these sources believe that the Israeli Cabinet will agree to the participation of Menahem Begin in the next round of discussions with Dr Mustafa Khalil. President Carter himself will participate in these discussions. These sources also believe that the two sides have the desire to achieve tangible progress in the next round.

The MENA correspondent has also learned that both Dr Khalil and Cyrus Vance telephoned President Anwar as-Sadat Saturday night and briefed him on the latest developments in the discussions.

An Egyptian source has stated that Egypt is not in a hurry regarding the negotiations because time works in its favor and the passage of time increases the understanding of the Egyptian position, which has remained firm and unchangeable since the beginning, contrary to the position of Israel and its attempts to distort the facts.

The U.S. sources hope that the negotiations will be resumed between the two sides in Camp David on Friday.

CAIRO RADIO CITES PRESIDENT CARTER ON NEW TALKS

NC252118 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter has said that a conference on the level of prime ministers on the Middle East may be held at Camp David at the end of this week. President Carter made this statement after his meeting tonight with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

Carter announced that he will represent the United States together with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at the forthcoming conference. Dr Mustafa Khalil will represent Egypt and Prime Minister Menahem Begin will represent Israel.

Carter said that the results of the ministerial meetings held at Camp David in the past 5 days encouraged him to raise the level of the discussions. He said that in the light of developments, the possibility of raising the level of the talks to the level of prime ministers at the end of the week is being discussed.

CARTER PROPOSAL TO BE STUDIED WHEN KHALIL RETURNS

NC260648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 26 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 26 February--A high-level official Egyptian source has said that Egypt will study with great interest President Jimmy Carter's proposal on the convening of a conference on the level of heads of government at Camp David this week.

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM today, the official source said that Cairo is awaiting Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil's return to Cairo to study the U.S. proposal in the light of the progress achieved during the recent tripartite discussions at Camp David.

SOURCE ON DELEGATION'S RETURN FROM WASHINGTON

NC250709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0648 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--A responsible Egyptian source has asserted that the return of Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil to Cairo does not mean that the Camp David discussions have been suspended, but that there are some obstacles.

In a statement published by AL-AHRAM today, the source says that the discussions were expected to last until Monday, but that recent developments have changed the situation. He adds that U.S. President Carter is now making a complete study of all the developments in the situation.

On the other hand, AL-AHRAM reports today that the report which Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil communicated last night to President Anwar as-Sadat indicates that the United States has submitted one letter to be exchanged between Egypt and Israel on the future of the West Bank and Gaza sector in the light of the two Camp David accords. The report also indicates that Egypt has submitted its own proposals and versions of the draft letter to be exchanged. The draft letter defines the steps to be adopted for setting up the institutions and authorities of self-rule and for transferring the powers from the Israeli military establishment to the new Palestinian authority. It also confirms the link between the Egyptian-Israeli agreement and the agreement related to the West Bank and Gaza.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH AGRICULTURE STUDENTS

NC241615 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 79 NC

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today met with the students of the College of Agriculture at Alexandria University as part of his field tour of land reclamation projects. During the meeting President as-Sadat announced that university graduates who take part in reclaiming new lands and making them suitable for agriculture will be given ownership of these lands. He added that he will ask the governors to prepare their projects and plans for the new lands situated in their governorates so that work may begin on reclaiming these lands and giving them to those who will cultivate them.

President as-Sadat also announced that military service will be shortened to 6 months for those who take part in reclaiming and cultivating lands but that these same people will be called up for reserve duty to refresh their military knowledge. President as-Sadat added that the reclamation and cultivation projects he has seen today are considered a wonderful feat representing hope for the coming generations. This is because we are living on 4 percent of the area of the country and the remaining part is a desert. This desert land only needs water with which we can perform miracles.

President as-Sadat said that if nothing new happens concerning the Middle East issue requiring him to attend a conference, he will spend this week in Alexandria and will then begin a visit to the New Valley. President as-Sadat said we must leave the towns and go out into the vast lands, which we will provide with water. This is because 6 billion cubic meters of water are wastefully poured into the sea. Programs must be drawn up to make these waters reach the new lands to build the Egyptian home and the happiness of the new Egyptian family. Effective today the ownership of these new lands will be given to those youths who will reclaim and cultivate them. He said he will discuss all these matters with the prime minister after the prime minister returns from Camp David. We have a moderate climate and all we have to do is to exert an effort.

President as-Sadat said we [word indistinct] the necessary fertilizers to cultivate these lands. This will be accomplished in 1982. We must also provide the necessary cement and steel for building houses. We are proceeding along the correct course. Now that we have liberated our will, we must build Egypt so that it will remain lofty and proud and so that its sons will live in prosperity.

President as-Sadat today visited the new reclaimed lands in the western An-Nubariyah area. He planted an olive tree to mark the beginning of the reclamation of 44,500 feddans in the area. The reclaimed lands will be planted with citrus trees and vegetables as part of the food security projects and the reclamation and cultivation of 300,000 feddans in Alexandria, Al-Buhayrah and the northwestern coast.

SRV, IRANIAN, INDIAN, BELGIAN AMBASSADORS RECEIVED

NC241644 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The Arab Republic of Egypt has affirmed the need for a halt to the current fighting between China and Vietnam and for talks to be held between the two countries to settle the dispute between them.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Salah Hasan today met with the Vietnamese ambassador in Cairo. During the meeting he explained to the Vietnamese ambassador Egypt's stand toward this dispute. He said that Egypt believes that negotiations are the best way to settle this dispute.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary also met with the Iranian ambassador in Cairo to whom he conveyed Egypt's stand based on nonintervention in the internal affairs of any country. He affirmed that Egypt is primarily interested in the restoration of peace, stability and security in Iran. He also affirmed that Egypt is anxious to maintain the close relations with the Iranian people and will work to consolidate these relations in the future.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary also met with the Indian ambassador in Cairo and reviewed with him developments in the Middle East in the light of the efforts being made by Egypt to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the area. They also reviewed the situation in Cambodia and Vietnam. The Indian deputy foreign minister will pay a visit to Egypt next month.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary also met with the Belgian ambassador in Cairo and discussed with him ways to strengthen multilateral cooperation between the two countries.

AVIATION PROTOCOLS WITH USSR REPORTEDLY CANCELLED

NC250841 Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--Cairo's AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt has officially informed the Soviet Government that the protocols attached to the air transport agreement between the two countries will be canceled as of 1 April.

These agreements give the Soviet Aeroflot Company the right to transport passengers from Cairo to several places in east and west Africa and to Aden in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula. The agreements stipulate that either of the two sides has the right to cancel them provided that they inform the other side 60 days before their expiration.

AL-AHRAM says that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has sent a letter to the Soviet Embassy in Cairo including Egypt's decision to terminate the validity of the aviation protocols on 1 April.

AL-AKHBAR OUTLINES NEW SOVIET PLAN IN AFRICA

NC250816 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 25 February--AL-AKHBAR reports today that a secret report connected with the new Soviet plan in Africa and the suspected Libyan role in the plan has been circulating, on a limited scale, among some west European states.

The paper says that the report includes the following information:

1. Following the stabilization of the Soviet presence in east Africa, particularly in the Horn of Africa, moves have begun in the direction of west Africa to complete the encirclement of the continent. In the meantime Soviet strategy attempts to realize this aim in the southern part of Africa.

2. Although the new Soviet plan uses the old method of exploiting instability in some areas in west Africa, it attempts at the same time to create hotbeds of disturbances in other areas.

3. The actual implementation of this plan began with the creation of disturbances inside the Central African Empire and with encouraging Al-Qadhdhafi to prevent stability in Chad.

4. In implementing this plan the Soviet Union is using the Libyan military presence in northern Chad, which is now reinforced by North Korean air support. North Korea is thus performing in west Africa the role of Cuba in east Africa.

5. In fact, the North Korean air force in northern Chad coordinates its activities with the Libyan forces there.

6. This activity, in its new form, aims at the actual domination of northern Chad, which in turn would enable the proclamation of a state in northern Chad, whose first step would then be to seek urgent Soviet aid to protect it.

7. The outcome of this plan would insure actual Soviet presence for the purpose of the following two aims:

A. A march on southern Chad and the subjection of all of Chad to Soviet domination;

B. The establishment of a Soviet base which could serve as a springboard to all other states in west Africa.

PRESENCE OF DPRK PILOTS IN LIBYA PROTESTED

NC180709 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 18 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 February--The weekly magazine OCTOBER reports in today's edition that the Arab Republic of Egypt has sent a protest to the DPRK because it has supplied Libya with a large number of pilots. In the protest memorandum, Egypt has announced that what the DPRK has done is considered an act of aggression.

PLANT TO BEGIN ASSEMBLING BRITISH HELICOPTERS IN 1980

NC240735 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 24 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, 24 February--The newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports today that a plant for assembling Lynx-type helicopters will begin production toward the beginning of next year. The paper says that the new plant is a joint Egyptian-British project for assembling the British helicopters in Egypt. The paper adds that the plant will produce 30 helicopters annually at first.

SADDAM HUSAYN COMMENTS ON NEW OIL FIND IN IRAQ

JN261101 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 26 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Feb--Revolution Command Council Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn has declared that there is a strong possibility that oil exists in Ath-Thawrah City, an eastern suburb of Baghdad. Nevertheless, the party and Revolution Command has decided to render extraordinary services to this city.

Saddam Husayn explained that the Ministry of Oil had asked for a delay in rendering services to this area because of the strong possibility that there is oil there. Saddam Husayn said that during a field visit he made to the oil survey areas in Ath-Thawrah City, he became convinced that the technical viewpoint is correct. Nevertheless, he will begin rendering maximum municipal services to this area.

This came in a speech Saddam Husayn delivered to a crowd estimated at more than a quarter of a million citizens in Ath-Thawrath City yesterday. Saddam Husayn said that imperialism was surprised with the Baghdad summit meeting, the Syrian-Iraqi relationship on the path of unity, and the revolutionary development in Iran. Saddam Husayn affirmed that imperialism will not be content with the status quo because it wants oil. He said the contradiction will continue between the people's interests and the revolution on the one hand and imperialism and its trends on the other. He called for caution and vigilance and interest in science and work. Saddam Husayn emphasized that imperialism will not achieve any of its goals in Iraq and will continue to lose in the Arab homeland day after day through the determination and strength of the Arab people and the Arab strugglers everywhere. He said: We will not be lenient toward imperialism and its lackeys. Saddam Husayn said that Iraqi-Syrian unity will upset the imperialist strategy in the area and will place the Arabs for the first time seriously and genuinely on the path of development to build their civilization, to resist the Zionist aggression, and to achieve the goals of struggle in Palestine. Saddam Husayn asserted that the revolution will continue its course of development, will achieve happiness for every Iraqi and every Arab in the Arab homeland, and will illuminate every dark corner in Iraq and the Arab homeland. Saddam Husayn said that the revolution in Iraq will continue on the path of Arab unity beginning with unity with fraternal Syria.

Saddam Husayn made a tour of the areas of Ath-Thawrah City and visited several schools and nurseries amid mammoth demonstrations welcoming the vice chairman.

IRAQ ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF OIL TO SYRIA

JN241358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1345 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 24 Feb--A responsible source at the Ministry of Oil and Natural Resources has stated that at 0900 today Iraqi oil has resumed its flow to Syrian territories in accordance with the Syrian-Iraqi agreement signed in Baghdad on 9 February, thus proceeding from the Joint Charter for National Action signed by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr.

The source added that all measures have been taken to pump the oil through the Syrian pipelines as far as Baniyas.

PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT SECRETARIAT MEETS 23 FEB

JN231709 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Text] The Progressive Patriotic and National Front General Secretariat held a meeting this morning under its secretary general Comrade Na'im Haddad, Ba'th Party regional command member. The secretariat discussed the Arab situation, the dimensions of the imperialist and Zionist plots and the aims of the imperialist-As-Sadat-Zionist moves represented by the resumption of the Camp David conference, which is opposed to the Arab revolutionary movement and the Palestinian cause.

The participants in the meeting hailed the pan-Arab role of Iraq led by the Ba'th Party, in strengthening the Arab masses' steadfastness and in escalating these masses' struggle against the imperialist-Zionist offensive. Also discussed were means of strengthening and bolstering the front's work and the allied relations among the patriotic and nationalist forces comprising it in order to foil the efforts of those elements that attempt to tarnish our experiment in this front, which was the result of efforts by the leading party of the revolution, the Ba'th Party.

Finally, the secretariat reviewed the overall activities carried out by the General Secretariat and the front's committees in the governorates and called for developing these activities in the interest of the masses' interest and in line with the patriotic and national tasks required at this stage.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CUBA

JN251740 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb--Iraq and Cuba signed here today an agreement on technical cooperation here today in the areas of housing, roads and construction. The agreement covers the Cuban implementation of several Iraqi development projects in these areas. The agreement was signed for Iraq by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and minister of public works and housing, and for Cuba by Levi Farah, Cuban minister president of the State Commission for Construction. The agreement reaffirms the need to strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries and to strengthen their struggling role against imperialism and Zionism.

CYPRIOT PARTY LEADER LYSSARIDES ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN232107 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb--Dr Vassos Lyssarides, chairman of the Cypriot Democratic Center Union [EDIK], arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command. Dr Lyssarides expressed his happiness at visiting Iraq at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command, which is closely linked to EDIK. He added that during the visit he will hold party talks dealing with the Palestinian issue, the Zionist occupation of Arab territories and the situation in Cyprus.

The delegation was received at the airport by Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general.

BUTRUS MEETS FRENCH, BRITISH, FRG AMBASSADORS

NC231406 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus received the French ambassador to Lebanon, Hubert Argod, this morning. After the thirty-minute meeting the ambassador said: The foreign minister summoned me this morning and spoke to me about a number of matters. He spoke to me more specifically, as you can imagine, about the concern caused by the situation in south Lebanon.

Replying to a question, the ambassador said: We are always working on the possibility of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 444. As you know, Dr Waldheim sent Urquhart to Lebanon with the aim of finding means of insuring the implementation of Resolution 444; on our side we are doing all we can to bring about this implementation.

Asked about the possibility of Minister Butrus visiting France, the ambassador said: The minister spoke about the possibility of his visiting a number of Western capitals and the United Nations. However, he has not fixed any date or details of the tour. I believe that the fixing of the date to a large degree, depends on developments. Before meeting with Minister Butrus the French ambassador had visited the Foreign Ministry secretary general, Shaykh Najib ad-Dahdah.

Minister Butrus then met with the British ambassador to Lebanon who said after the meeting: We discussed the situation in south Lebanon, the implementation of Resolution 444 and the possible future moves by the Security Council. Asked whether Minister Butrus had requested that his government should bring pressure to bear on Israel to facilitate the implementation of the resolution, the ambassador said: We discussed this possibility; moves will be decided in the light of developments in the future.

Minister Butrus then received the FRG charge d'affaires who said after the meeting: We spoke about the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 444. We read in the newspapers today about a tour which Minister Butrus will be making in Europe--a tour which a date has not yet been fixed. Asked whether Minister Butrus will be visiting Bonn, the FRG charge d'affaires said: I cannot say. Maybe there is a possibility that such a visit will be made. There is no fixed date. I believe it is premature to speak about such a visit.

VOL REPORT ON SECURITY SITUATION 23 Feb

NC230815 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Regarding the security situation, calm continues to reign in all the areas except for intermittent bursts of fire which were heard during the night in the southern suburb, the commercial area and the heart of the capital. UN security forces have now resumed patrolling the area around Fu'ad Shihab Bridge.

The Lebanese Electricity Authority Employees' Union has announced that it will strike today in denunciation of the attack on an electricity authority employee in the course of his duty. An armed man yesterday opened fire at electricity bill collector Musa (Midrani) in the Al-Musaytibah Quarter when the collector asked him to settle his electricity bills. The collector was wounded in the legs by seven bullets. He was later removed to the American University Hospital and is in critical condition.

PALESTINIAN LEADERS INSPECT SOUTHERN MILITARY UNITS

JN231613 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and member of the Al-'Asifah forces General Command, and brother Brig Gen Abu al-Walid, Central Operations Center director, have met with the commanders of the Palestinian military units in southern Lebanon.

Brother Abu Jihad spoke to the brother officers and cadres about the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the current situation in the Palestinian revolution on the Palestinian, Arab and international levels.

Brother Abu Jihad said that our Palestinian people inside the occupied land will once again reject the outcome of the second Camp David meeting, just as they rejected and resisted the outcome of the first. Our people, having rejected autonomy, will continue their struggle and will reject all the schemes and machinations concocted by the enemy and his agents.

Brother Abu Jihad affirmed that the Palestinian revolutionaries inside the occupied homeland will escalate their struggle against the Zionist occupation in order to realize our people's legitimate objectives.

Hailing the Iranian revolution, brother Abu Jihad said that the Iranian people's triumph is a triumph for the Palestinian people and their revolution. He said that the militant relationship between Fatah and the Iranian revolutionaries is not something new, but is old and strong.

Brother Abu Jihad added that the Palestinian revolution will back all those who struggle for liberty in the world because world imperialism is the enemy of all peoples.

Brother Brig Gen Abu al-Walid said: We once again reiterate our concern for Lebanon's security, welfare and territorial integrity. The isolationist forces' threat in the south and their collaboration with the Zionist enemy harms not only Lebanon but the entire Arab nation. The Palestinian revolution and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement will not permit a second Israel to exist in Lebanon.

Brothers Abu Jihad and Abu al-Walid also answered the officers' and cadres' questions at the meeting.

DRUZE LEADER ARSALAN INTERVIEWED BY VOL

NC230830 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 23 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpts] A political and social banquet was held by Prince Faysal Arsalan at his house yesterday and was attended by Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, Finance Minister Farid Rufayil, Defense Minister Victor Khuri; the Kuwaiti, Italian, British and FRG ambassadors; the director general of public security and a number of personalities.

Prince Faysal Arsalan talked to the Voice of Lebanon reporter on the subjects that were discussed during the banquet. Regarding the position of the chief of staff, Prince Faysal said: We refuse that this position be kept outside the Military Council. He added: It appears that attempts are being made to keep the chief of staff away from sensitive issues because the position of chief of staff concerns the Druze community.

Among other things, Prince Faysal told the Voice of Lebanon reporter: [Begin recording]

[Question] Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus is going to visit Europe. What are your comments on this visit and what do you expect from it?

[Answer] We always expect good things. We are optimistic by nature. We hope that the European countries will feel for Lebanon--this small country which cannot endure any more plots by either Western or Arab states. Let them leave Lebanon alone. Let them leave it alone to live in security and peace and with a united territory, army and people.

[Question] As to the defense bill, there is a dispute over the inclusion of the chief of staff in the Military Council. What is your stand on this matter?

[Answer] (?We raised) this issue with Prime Minister al-Huss. It appears that this matter has almost been resolved on the basis that when the army commander is absent from the Military Council, the chief of staff will act in his place. [end recording]

AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENTS PRIOR TO POLITICAL BUREAU MEETING

NC241348 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 24 Feb 79 NC

[Excerpts] Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil presided today over a meeting of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau in Sayyidat al-Bir.

Before the meeting, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said that it would be unreasonable for Lebanon to remain as it is now--in vain seeking the way to salvation, not knowing how and when salvation can be achieved.

Al-Jumayyil said: Therefore, we must draw up a new plan of action that must be conducive to resolving a situation that is oscillating between rupture and loss, and that will make everyone assume his responsibility, be he Lebanese, Palestinian, Arab or foreigner.

It is high treason--and I say this loudly--on the part of Lebanese officials, leaders, parties and men of religion, not to undertake joint action for salvation because an operation cannot be carried out by one group alone.

Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil concluded his statement by saying: Therefore, we shall make a new move from a general, national position so that everyone of us will assume his historical responsibility concerning the imminent dangers threatening the homeland, the people and their destiny. Thus, there will be no excuse for anyone who claims that salvation is not in the hands of the Lebanese.

Phalangist Political Bureau Statement

NC250938 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The Phalangist Party Political Bureau ended its meeting last night. During its meeting, the bureau discussed three working papers dealing with the Palestinian presence [in Lebanon], the relationship with Syria and the reality of the Arab Deterrent Forces; and the future of Lebanon with regard to its material and human geography in the light of partition plans for settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon], thereby distorting Lebanon's identity and its role.

The Political Bureau issued a six-point statement in which the party emphasizes that what is happening in Lebanon is not a war among its sons but an extension of a regional and international conflict. The Phalangist Party notes that there is no going back on the Islamic-Christian experiment or substituting it with another experiment.

The party also emphasizes its insistence on Lebanon's unity which is based on positive, creative and unifying diversification [tanwi'] in accordance with a suitable political system. It asserts its rejection of settling [the Palestinians in Lebanon] and emphasizes the need to reestablish the state's sovereignty over all Lebanese territory and support active legitimacy.

On its relationship with Syria, the party expressed its regret over the deterioriation of this relationship to such an extent as to become one of enmity. Therefore, it has become necessary to prevent a worsening of this relationship and to revive it as one of friendship and candor.

Regarding the presence of the deterrent forces, the party believes that their presence has become more detrimental than beneficial to the fraternal relationship of the two peoples and countries. Therefore, the party calls for a radical reconsideration of this subject so as to enable the Lebanese state to carry out its full responsibilities on Lebanese territory.

ISRAELI ACTIVITY REPORTED IN SOUTH, OFF COAST

Planes Overfly Beirut 25 Feb

JN251101 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 February--The ground defenses of the joint forces repulsed two aircraft belonging to the Zionist enemy when they violated Lebanese airspace over Beirut at noon today.

The two aircraft, which were flying at a low altitude, were forced to flee toward the sea.

Planes Overfly Palestinian Camps

JN251204 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1146 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Beirut, 25 February--Two fighter aircraft belonging to the Zionist enemy flew over Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon at 1300 today.

The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that immediate measures were adopted at the camps in An-Nabatiyah, Al-Burj al-Shamali near Tyre, and 'Ayn al-Hulwah near Sidon, all of which were overflown by the enemy aircraft, and that the combatants were alerted as a precaution against any possible aggression by the enemy.

Naval Activity Off Coast

NC251745 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] It has been reported that intensive Israeli naval activity was observed this evening along the coast between Ad-Damur and An-Naqurah. The Palestinian organizations are taking precautionary measures.

On another security level, relative calm prevailed on all the axes of the southern suburb and As-Sayfi area. Only one RPG projectile exploded in the air. It was fired from one of the Arab Deterrent Forces positions in the Chevrolet area at 1820 today.

PAPERS DISCUSS U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS, BROWN'S TOUR

VC250828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Press Review]

[Excerpts] Writing in the newspaper AL-ANWAR on the Middle East crisis, Rafiq Khuri says: Harold Brown was not the only U S. visitor to the area recently. Before he came, during and after his visit, other delegates came to the area. Some of them came amid much fanfare and others came and went without anybody knowing except the senior officials with whom they met. However, the task of all these visitors was to listen and take notes, while the task of the U.S. defense secretary was to talk.

Brown's basic stop was in Saudi Arabia, where U.S. strategy is really tested and where the written test papers are assessed and the oral test is recorded.

Brown showed only one card or the prelude to other cards that are still folded. What the U.S. secretary said--as conveyed by Riyadh to the capitals in the gulf through the Saudi Foreign Ministry under secretary--is that President Carter is prepared to support Saudi Arabia and the gulf states militarily, economically and politically and that he is even prepared to send U.S. forces if required, to guarantee the gulf's security if the governments concerned with this.

The gulf is not opposed to U.S. guarantees, but in the wake of the Iranian events it has become aware that such guarantees are mere words. Among the gulf rulers, there are those who formally and basically reject the idea of sending U.S. forces.

The problem in Iran was not due to lack of U.S. intervention or presence but because of much U.S. interference and presence. The new equation recognized by the senior officials in the oil countries is that the Soviets are still adversaries but the Americans are not allies any longer. At least they are not reliable allies any longer, whether with regard to the future situation in the gulf or to a Middle East settlement.

The newspaper ASH-SHA'B says that the relations between Riyadh and Washington are exceptional, as the Americans describe them. In these relations, the U.S. position regarding the Zionist occupation of the holy lands cannot be ignored. Therefore, a wave of ambiguity and mistrust has recently emerged between the Riyadh rulers and the U.S. administration, especially following the eruption of the situation in Iran and the triumph of the Islamic progressive revolution over the imperial throne and the toppling of the agent shah.

The paper notes that Saudi Crown Prince Fahd has canceled his visit to Washington because he felt that the reason he was invited was to provide an Islamic cover for the Camp David agreements. Prince Fahd has realized that the signing of these agreements will undermine the entire Islamic existence and crush the head of Arabism. Therefore, he cancelled his trip.

BA'TH PARTY, SENEGALESE SOCIALIST PARTY SIGN AGREEMENT

JN242135 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 24 Feb 79 JN

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed at the National Command building this evening between the Ba'th Party and the Senegalese Socialist Party. The agreement was signed for the Ba'th Party by Comrade Mahmud az-Zu'bi, alternate member of the Ba'th Party regional command and head of the Ba'th Party delegation to the talks; and for the Senegalese Socialist Party by Comrade (Lamin Diyak), party Central Committee member and delegation head.

Cordial speeches were exchanged during the signing ceremony. The speeches expressed the profound friendship and cooperation between the two parties. Comrade (Diyak) emphasized the solidarity of the Senegalese Socialist Party and the Senegalese people with the Ba'th Party in its struggle to regain the occupied Arab territories and to restore the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish their independent state in their homeland.

A joint statement on the delegation's visit will be issued later.

JOINT SYRIAN-SUDANESE TRADE UNIONS' STATEMENT REPORTED

JN251711 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Feb 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--The Sudanese General Federation of Trade Unions has expressed its support for the Joint National Action Charter between fraternal Syria and Iraq. It adds that the charter constitutes a nucleus to the all-embracing Arab unity, and a strong mainstay to the battle of steadfastness and pan-Arab liberation.

A joint statement was issued today on the meetings and talks between the delegations representing the Syrian and Sudanese General Federations of Trade Unions. The statement condemns As-Sadat's treasonous course. It says that the most serious link in this course began when As-Sadat made his ill-omened visit to the occupied Arab territories and his subsequent concessions to the Zionist enemy and imperialism. These concessions were manifested in the Camp David agreements and in other capitulatory stands.

The Sudanese side expressed its support for the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, whose backbone and foremost line of defense are formed by Syria and the PLO. The Sudanese side expressed high appreciation of Syria's principled and pan-Arab stands on the Arab struggle, particularly on that of the Palestinian people. It lauded the great socialist accomplishments made in Syria under the wise and valiant leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

The two sides stressed the need to develop their relations in all fields in the interests of the working class in both countries. They asserted their support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The two sides expressed their firm conviction that the Sudanese delegation's visit would contribute to consolidating the relations between the two fraternal organizations.

The Syrian side to the talks with the guest delegation was headed by Comrade 'Izz ad-Din Nasir, president of the Syrian General Federation of Trade Unions; and the Sudanese side was headed by 'Abdallah Nasr Qinnawi, president of the General Federation of Trade Unions.

DAMASCUS PAPER: SYRIA WILL STAND UP TO U.S. PRESSURES

JN241020 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 23 Feb 79 p 8 JN

[Article by Jubran Kuriyah: "Pressures Will Not Save Washington's Policy"]

[Text] There are many events that draw attention to U.S. conduct in the Middle East, particularly following the Iranian upheaval which wrecked one of the mainstays of U.S. Middle East policy. Among those events are:

New intensive U.S. efforts in the area;
Continuous U.S. statements on the Middle East;
U.S. threats against the area's peoples and states;
U.S. attempts to widen the gap and weaken the ranks of the Iranian revolution and its various forces;
Attempts to fabricate differences between the Arabs or some of the Arabs and the new regime in Iran, even resorting to raising the question of the three islands which were occupied by the shah;
Expediting the signing of the capitulatory treaty between Israel and As-Sadat's regime, particularly following the planned reluctance after the Baghdad ninth Arab summit; and
The declaration of an extreme state of alert for the U.S. special forces, a step meant to exhibit power.

Out of all those U.S. reactions to the Iranian events and developments in the Arab arena, the U.S. officials have chosen offense as the best defensive policy, hoping that this new offense will eventually stop the collapse of the U.S. pillars of strategy in the area. They are brandishing a big stick in the face of all forces which are firmly confronting them and are still struggling against the U.S. policies in order to save the dignity and rights of their peoples. It is not coincidental then to hear some U.S. circles encouraging the use of firmness, although some of those persons--like Dr Henry Kissinger--are no longer directly responsible for U.S. policy. Moreover, some of those men in Washington believe that neither U.S. policy nor the bloody regime of the shah are responsible for the Iranian collapse; it was the American hesitation to use firmness, even if it had led to using force and consequently jeopordizing world peace. There is no doubt that Syria--the bulwark of the Arabs and the base of steadfastness--by leading the Arab struggle to foil the imperialist-Zionist onslaught and because of Al-Asad's initiative and his unity steps with fraternal Iraq, will be a major focus of U.S. attempts. This is crystal clear because Syria's force is a great strength in the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Syria's steadfastness is steadfastness for all Arabs. Syria's success in healing the Arab rift and building Arab unity will destroy all imperialist and Zionist desires and will consequently obtain victory for the Arab masses and defeat for the capitulationist scheme of As-Sadat.

Therefore, it will not be surprising if the United States puts pressure on Syria in all fields by different ways as it has done in the past. Anyone who follows the situation and reads the Phalangist paper Al-'AMAL or many similar publications will notice the escalation of hostile campaigns, instigation and lies against Syria. Hence, we expect that the United States, its allies and agents will exert pressure on Syria though Lebanon. The plotters' calculations will prove wrong as they have in the past. Their plans and plots will collapse as their policies in Iran have broken down. Syria is fighting the battle with all its force; thus, it is prepared for all developments. Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is used to facing and standing up to pressures. There is no force capable of influencing the Syrian decision or Syria's struggling march to foil the plot of spreading imperialist domination and imposing capitulatory settlement on the Arabs.

ALGERIA

KUWAITI, ALGERIAN OIL MINISTERS HOLD TALKS

ID232108 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah today paid a visit to Algeria where he held talks with brother Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the minister of energy and petrochemical industries. The talks which come within the framework of current consultations among OPEC member states centered on the position of the world oil market.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR ASKED TO EXPLAIN STATEMENT ON SUMMIT

ID222315 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 22 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The French ambassador was received this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where he was asked to explain the origins, the meaning and the purpose of statements made on the 20 February by Monsieur Olivier Stirn, French secretary of state for foreign affairs, referring to a possible summit meeting between Algeria and Morocco.

For his part, the Algerian ambassador in Paris was instructed to make a demarche on the same lines with the French authorities.

Authorized sources in Algiers recalled that Algeria's position on the decolonizing of the Western Sahara was clearly stated in the message issued on the 15 February, 1979, by Bouteflika, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, the content and terms of which were drafted at the level of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front.

Whether these statements are aimed at misleading international opinion, in particular the African community on the eve of the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers in Nairobi, or whether they are intended to serve indirectly as a sounding, they are judged here to be unfounded, inopportune and, in any case, committing only those who made them or inspired them.

LIBYA

PRIME MINISTER OF MAURITIUS ENDS VISIT

ID222016 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 22 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The Mauritian delegation led by Prime Minister Dr. Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam left Tripoli this morning ending a four-day visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Dr. Ramgoolam was given an official send-off at Tripoli International Airport by the head of the General People's Committee, Mr. 'Abd al'Ati al-'Ubyadi, the secretaries and undersecretaries and the directors of various departments at the Foreign Secretariat.

Joint Statement

LD222216 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli--A joint statement was issued this evening at the end of the visit of Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the prime minister of Mauritius, to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Here is the text:

At the invitation of brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, chairman of the General People's Committee of the Jamahiriyah, Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of Mauritius and the head of the senior ministerial delegation, visited the Jamahiriyah from 19 to 22 February.

During this visit brother 'Abd al'-Ati al-'Ubaydi held talks with Dr Seewoosagur Ramgoolam in the presence of the delegations of both countries which dealt with bilateral relations and African, Arab and international issues.

In the sphere of bilateral relations the two sides once again stressed the fraternal and historic ties between the peoples of both countries and reviewed the development of these relations in all spheres and stressed their commitment to work to realize further the growth of cooperation between the two countries.

In the African sphere, the two sides have noted that the African Continent is being exposed to new colonial and racists assaults and have stressed their determination to continue to fight colonialism and racism until the whole African continent is liberated. In this connection the two sides expressed their indictment of the policy of the colonial forces striving to dominate the African Continent. They demanded the imperative withdrawal of foreign forces from the African Continent and the liquidation of colonial bases.

The two sides also stressed the need to liberate the African peoples who are still suffering from hegomony, foreign monopolies and racist domination and their belief that armed struggle against colonialism and racism is the sole road for the freedom of the people. In this connection they continue to support and back all African liberation movements, whether those fighting racist colonialism in the south of the continent or those who are still struggling against the domination of foreign forces. In this connection the two sides have stressed their belief that a just and fair solution for the Western Sahara question should be found which takes into consideration the wishes of its citizens.

Regarding the Ugandan-Tanzanian conflict, the two sides expressed their anxiety about the fighting taking place among the brothers which only serves the enemies of the continent and on this occasion they have addressed a warm appeal to both sides to immediately halt the fighting and to peacefully solve the dispute between them within the framework of the African family in accordance with the principles and the charter of the OAU.

In the Arab sphere, the two sides praised the efforts of the Arab-African group for cultural and economic progress and the defeat of colonialism. They stressed that Arab-African unity is bound to contribute to the realization of economic and political freedom of all the Arab and African peoples and to be beneficial to the peoples of the Third World because it is based on foundations linking the two groups historically, geographically and culturally.

Regarding the Palestinian question, the two sides condemned any attempt to ignore the right of the Palestinian people to solve their question and consider that any solution which the Palestinian people are not full party to is unsatisfactory.

They also stressed their determination to continue to support the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped rights including their right to return to their homeland and to live in a free and independent state.

In the international sphere the two sides stressed their commitment to the aims and charter of the United Nations and to the resolutions and the principles of nonalinement, and they called for the amendment to the UN Charter to realize justice and equality among all states. They also called for the establishment of a new world economic system based on justice and equality.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency the prime minister of Mauritius, Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, expressed his profound admiration for the great achievements realized by the Great 1 September Revolution under the leadership of brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that seek to provide prosperity and the establishment of social justice in the Jamahiriyah. He also expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude for the warm fraternal welcome which he and the accompanying delegation enjoyed during their presence in the Jamahiriyah. The prime minister of Mauritius asked brother 'Abd al-'Ati al-' Ubaydi to convey to brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a renewal of the invitation to visit Mauritius. He also renewed the invitation to brother chairman of the General People's Committee to visit Mauritius. This invitation has been accepted and the date is to be fixed later on.

Issued in Tripoli, 22 February 1979.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES NIGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY

LD261020 Tripoli JANA in English 0810 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The leader of the Great First of September Revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, received the Nigerian president's personal envoy, Mr. Umario Ali Shinkafi. The Nigerian envoy handed Colonel al-Qadhdhafi a letter from President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Ends Visit

LD261022 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo's personal envoy, Mr. Umario Ali Shinkafi, left Tripoli yesterday evening after a short one day visit to the Jamahiriyah.

Present at the Nigerian envoy's send-off at Tripoli International Airport were the acting director of African affairs at the Foreign Secretariat, the Nigerian ambassador to the Jamahiriyah and a delegate from the protocol directorate at the Foreign Secretariat.

MAURITANIA

OAU MEETING REQUESTED TO DISCUSS CHAD

ID231744 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Nouakchott, Feb 23 (MAP)--Mauritania launched here Thursday an appeal to the Organization for African Unity (OAU) to summon a meeting of "all representatives of diverse Chadian tendencies for a national reconciliation". A communique broadcast here Wednesday indicated that this decision was made during a meeting of the Military Committee for National Recovery which was consecrated to the situation in Chad.

The communique also underlined that the Mauritanian leader Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck sent a message to his Sudanese counterpart Ja'far Numayri, acting president of the OAU, in which he affirmed his country's disposals to "contribute to the efforts that will be undertaken by the OAU to reach such initiative".

The Mauritanian leader also congratulated the Sudanese Government for the efforts undertaken in the beginning of hostilities, and which led to a cease-fire in Chad.

MOROCCO

SAUDI PETROLEUM MINISTER YAMANI ARRIVES IN RABAT

LD222322 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, arrived in Rabat a short while ago to take part in the constituent meeting of the Arab Mineral Resources Organization which has its headquarters in Rabat.

REPORT ON IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

LD250000 Rabat MAP in English 1213 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Casablanca, Feb 24 (MAP)--Simeon Ake, Ivory Coast minister of foreign affairs, left here Friday after a state visit to Morocco. The Ivorian minister was received Thursday by King Hassan of Morocco, to whom he delivered a message from Houphouet-Boigny, Ivory Coast president.

Ake was also received by M'hamed Boucetta, the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The two ministers discussed different problems inscribed at the forthcoming council of the Organization for African Unity (OAU) which will take place in Nairobi, Kenya.

SUDAN

COORDINATION WITH EGYPT BEING RECONSIDERED

LD231405 Tripoli JANA in English 0943 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Feb, JANA--It has been reported from Khartoum that the Sudanese Government is reconsidering its policy of complete coordination with the Egyptian regime.

Well-informed Arab sources in Kuwait said this step could have been taken in view of the continuous popular pressure on the Sudanese Government and in view of the changes brought about by the Iranian popular revolution.

The Egyptian president was received in Khartoum during a recent visit to Sudan by huge demonstrations condemning his capitulatory policy and his reception of the deposed shah.

BEGIN REFUSES TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED SUMMIT IN U.S.

TA252109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 25 Feb 79 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin tonight refused to comment on the report from Washington that the U.S. President has invited him for a new summit meeting at Camp David. At the end of a dinner he held for the foreign minister of the Netherlands, Begin said that he must peruse the invitation and that as long as he has not seen it, he would not comment.

Reaction to Invitation

TA261012 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Feb 79 pp 1, 15 TA

[By Yosef Harif, 'Ido Dissentshik and 'Oded Granot]

[Excerpts] The Cabinet is not inclined to recommend that Prime Minister Menahem Begin go to the United States in response to President Jimmy Carter's invitation. This could be gathered from private conversations with various Cabinet members.

The official invitation from the U.S. President has not yet arrived, but it is known that Carter wants Begin to come to the United States, assuming that this would make it possible to overcome the obstacles in the negotiations.

Cabinet members described the development as being strange "because previously the Middle East summit included President Carter, President as-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin, whereas now As-Sadat is not inclined to come to the United States and leaves the representation to Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil."

Government sources in Jerusalem commented on this this morning, saying that this makes a farce of the entire negotiations. Those circles quoted President as-Sadat as having said that he himself granted the Egyptian prime minister the authority, so to speak, to make decisions in the United States in the course of the negotiations, but it has been reported in advance on behalf of As-Sadat that Egypt will not agree to make any concessions. When no concessions will be made, these governmental sources said, why should Prime Minister Menahem Begin leave for the United States?

On the other hand, there are those in the Cabinet who think that if indeed an official invitation from President Carter arrives, it would be difficult--out of respect for the U.S. President--to reply in the negative. In this case, various Cabinet members think, the prime minister would have to reply in the affirmative "in principle" and explain to the U.S. President that according to evaluations in Israel, the conditions are not ripe for a summit meeting precisely because of the concern for the success of the summit and that, therefore, it would be better not to embark on such a summit.

According to reports presented to the Cabinet yesterday, it could be inferred that no real progress was made at the Camp David talks. The prime minister did not go into detail but said that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will report to the Cabinet tomorrow at an extraordinary session which will be convened for that purpose. It has been learned that Dayan himself asked the prime minister to allow him to report to the Cabinet about his talks.

The only progress during the talks was over one point: Article IV of the agreement, which concerns the security arrangements. As will be recalled, the Egyptians have demanded that each side be permitted to rediscuss the security arrangements at the end of 5 years. Israel has objected, because this would place a mark of temporariness on the entire agreement. A compromise has been found, whereby each party would have the right to request a rediscussion of the security arrangements and changes would be possible by mutual consent, but that will not be conditioned on a specific time element.

It is assumed in Washington that if there were any doubts as to Prime Minister Begin's willingness to respond to the invitation, Foreign Minister Dayan would not have agreed to support the formula of the announcement made by President Carter. An announcement on the intention to call a meeting of the prime ministers was given to Begin on Saturday evening, and when the Israeli Cabinet convened yesterday, Begin already knew that this would be the proposal.

It is not known whether Begin has decided to accept the invitation, and merely postponed giving the official reply until after tomorrow's Cabinet session, or if indeed it is possible that he will ultimately reject the invitation. At the same time, it is not assumed that his reply will be negative, because President Carter announced the intention to hold such a meeting using expressions which pointed to almost complete certainty.

SOURCE CLAIMS NO PROGRESS MADE AT CAMP DAVID

NC251221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1133 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] About an hour ago the Cabinet ended its meeting. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reports from the prime minister's office.

[Schiffer--live or recorded] No progress at all has been made in the recent discussions at Camp David. The Egyptians have not only maintained their inflexible positions, but--on the contrary--have hardened them in the discussions and have even reneged on their willingness to make some of their positions more flexible. At the time, it looked as if the Egyptians were getting closer to Israel's positions in the previous phases of the negotiations.

This information was reported to me about 1 hour ago by a most reliable source who has been familiar with all the phases of the negotiations with Egypt. His explanation: The extremism which recently has been sweeping the Arab world in general and the Muslim countries in particular. It seems that Khomeyni's takeover in Iran has also affected the position of the Egyptian representatives at the Camp David II talks. The same source added that the positions that were raised last week by the Egyptian representatives in their talks with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan contradicted even the principles of the agreements which were attained here--at Camp David.

The prime minister, who came out at the end of the Cabinet meeting, made a short statement and refused to reply to reporters' questions.

[Begin] The foreign minister will return home tomorrow. I have asked the Cabinet to hold an extraordinary session on Tuesday morning in which Mr Dayan will give a full report on the discussions at Camp David. The Cabinet will hold a discussion and then make its decisions.

[Schiffer] The Cabinet did not discuss the date of Mr Begin's trip to the summit which is expected to take place in the United States. Discussions on this subject will take place after the foreign minister gives his report to the Cabinet on Tuesday morning.

FUEL PRICES INCREASED BY 32 PERCENT

TA260736 Jerusalem POST in English 26 Feb 79 p 1 TA

[By Shlomo Ma'oz, POST economic reporter]

[Text] The cost of one litre of 94-octane petrol rose from 8.70 Israeli pounds to 12.10 pounds and the cost of a litre of 83-octane petrol rose from 8.10 pounds to 11.30 pounds as of midnight last night, the Energy Ministry announced. All forms of fuel rose in price, an average of 32 percent.

The fuel price hikes were seen as the first stage in a series of government-authorized price rises in controlled goods, including basic commodities and public transport. During the coming month, the Jerusalem POST has learned, price increases will be authorized, so that by April 1 any further government price hikes will be based on cost increases.

Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich said last week in a letter to Histadrut Secretary-General Yerucham Meshel that since February 1978 the basic commodities have been increased 10-20 percent, while their production costs leaped by 40 percent. Therefore, the government has no choice but to hike prices now, so as not to increase subsidies, and to prevent inflationary pressures, Ehrlich wrote Meshel.

The petrol cost hike should only minimally affect the February consumer index, which is the last month to be included in the formula for determining the cost-of-living [COL] compensation due in April.

Compensation for the petrol, telephone, telex, postal, transport, and commodities hikes will therefore only come in next October's paycheque, at the usual 70 percent of the rise in the index.

As a result of last night's rise in fuel prices, an increase of 24 percent in the cost of electricity is anticipated, as well as a 15-20 percent rise in water rates.

The hikes are expected to provide the government with additional tax revenue of 2.6 billion pounds.

Economists in Jerusalem last night were predicting an immediate increase of 2 percent in the cost-of-living index, with similar increase coming later as a result of other products becoming more expensive, due to the fuel and electricity increases.

The spokesman said that since the beginning of the Iranian crisis, the dollar price of oil on the world market has shot up dramatically. The majority of oil producing countries do not trade with Israel, which has therefore been forced to seek supplies from far-off sources or indirectly, for a correspondingly higher price.

This round of price hikes is intended to cover the upward floating prices and to bring Israeli petrol prices into line with the European average.

According to the Energy Ministry's estimates, the rise in petrol prices will cause an immediate COL increase of between 1.25 and 1.5 percent.

According to the Energy Ministry spokesman, the problem of petrol availability is more serious than its cost. Even with secure supplies, Israel must make every effort to reduce its reliance and avoid waste, especially in view of the tendency of other prices to rise as a result of the increase in the cost of fuel.

These are the new prices (VAT included) [value added tax] as of midnight last night:

--Petrol (83 octane), 11.30 pounds--up 39 percent.
--Petrol (94 octane), 12.10 pounds--up 39 percent.
--Diesel fuel, from 3.30 pounds a litre to 4.35 pounds--a 32 percent increase.
--Kerosene, from 3.55 pounds a litre to 4.70 pounds--a 32 percent increase.
--Crude oil for the production of electricity and cement (not including VAT), from 1.680 pounds to 2.215 pounds--a 26 percent increase.
--Gas for domestic use, from 106 pounds a kg to 140 pounds--a 32 percent increase.

A few minutes after TV announced at 9 p.m. last night, that a petrol price rise was imminent, petrol stations in Jerusalem were inundated with cars. By 10 p.m. several stations had run out of 84 octane petrol, but car owners remained in the long lines to purchase the lower octane petrol at the old price.

Full details of the different fuel prices were published in an order sent out yesterday evening by Energy Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i.

As a result of the increases in fuel prices, electricity charges will also increase by an average of 18 agorot per kilowatt hour--an average price rise of 24 percent.

MILITARY SOURCES 'KNOW NOTHING' ABOUT BEIRUT OVERFLIGHTS

NC251140 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Terrorists in Beirut are alleging that their anti-aircraft guns fired at two Israeli planes which overflew Beirut. The terrorists' news agency, WAFA, claims that the planes flew at a low altitude over the refugee camps in western Beirut.

Military sources in Tel Aviv told our correspondent that they know nothing about this report.

GENERAL FAVORS U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO EGYPT

NC241240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Feb 79 NC

[Text] The head of Tel Aviv University's Institute for Strategic Studies, Reserve Gen Aharon Yariv, favors the U.S. supply of modern arms to Egypt.

General Yariv added that the alternative would be Egypt's turning back to the Soviet Union for its arms.

PERES DISCUSSES LABOR POLICY, PEACE PROSPECTS

TA2311145 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 79 p 13 TA

[Shim'on Peres commentary: "What Another Government Would Do"]

[Text] The Camp David agreement provided a special impetus to the Palestinian issue. The Palestinians were recognized as a people with legitimate rights and justified demands. The Arab countries decided to allocate, via the PLO and Jordan, $150 million to the West Bank--a sum double the budget of the coordinator of activities in the territories. This is an allocation which will very much decrease the municipalities' dependence on the military government.

Egypt is today insisting mainly on the Palestinian issue. It is the only country in the Arab world dealing with that issue. The United States promised to act toward the establishment of an "authority for self-rule" in the territories which will replace the military government.

The events in Iran annexed to the Arab rejectionist front the potential of the Muslim zealousness. They also aroused enthusiasm in the PLO's imagination, just as the Camp David agreements brought additional sections of the inhabitants of the territories closer to the PLO positions. The events in Iran even underlined Israel's democratic stability in view of the instability of other regimes. In the eyes of the world, however, democracy is no substitute for oil. The West continues to give preference to oil from a nondemocratic source over a democracy which has no oil.

When some of our ministers tried to convince the U.S. secretary of defense to declare that Israel is a strategic asset for the United States, he claimed that although the existence of Israel was important to the United States, the territories in its possession were not an asset to the West: Peace without territories was more important than territories.

In the United States, Moshe Dayan will discuss the five articles still at dispute between us and Egypt. And there is no point in examining what the defined authority is that was given him by the Cabinet. Anyone with an opinion understands that Israel's representatives are going to the United States in order to compromise, not only in order to bargain. And he will certainly discover that both the compromising and the bargaining will now be done under more difficult conditions.

Today it is clear that the attempt to gain time brought a gain in time, but not a gain in negotiations. Had the government signed an agreement at Ismailia, 7 months before it signed the agreement at Camp David, it would not have had to commit itself to "self-rule," whose source of authority is an international agreement signed at Camp David. Then Dayan could have signed with Egypt on an autonomy which would have drawn its authority from the Government of Israel. Had the Government of Israel adopted the Vienna declaration of July 1978 instead of the "framework agreement" in September of that same year, it could have recognized the "rights of the Palestinians" and not the "rights of the Palestinian people."

It is clear that the Government of Israel can continue to insist on the fact that the negotiations must be held at the speed of almost stagnant water. Paper is patient; not so the situation. [paragraph continues]

Had the Government of Israel decided to change its mind about all of its moves--and there are ministers who are proposing this (although I believe that this is not the government's position)--it would have been possible to understand the duration of the negotiations. But if it is the intention to conclude them, then the more time passes, the harder the matter becomes, and this also makes Israel's position much more difficult. With time--it is almost certain that Khomeyni will establish himself more firmly. His success will be a challenge to other countries, particularly to Saudi Arabia, Iran will move closer to the rejectionist front and to the PLO--and will encourage both of them. Syria and Iraq will make the cooperation between them even closer, and neither the United States nor the Soviet Union will give up their relations with one or both these Arab countries.

The West will court the oil countries. Fear will increase in Saudi Arabia as Iran hardens its positions. Husayn will continue to move farther away from what seems to him to be a minefield--the autonomy in the West Bank. As-Sadat will remain free to rethink his path--while the United States compensates him with money and weapons and with a promise of more means and more weapons in the future. With As-Sadat's trip to Jerusalem a new crossroads was created in the Middle East and it would be the right thing to move from it in the direction of peace.

At the dinner given by the U.S. ambassador--to my regret, one or two of those who were present used some of the remarks made there to cause gossip--we were asked how the Alinement government would have behaved in the situation created. It is clear to me that when the Alinement returns to power, it will not find the situation as it was when it left. It will find an Israel which, under the Likud leadership, took upon itself multiple international commitments and divested itself of geographical assets and positions of principle.

The Likud government has conceded defensible borders in the south; it has given up Israel's position in Sharm Ash Shaykh and territorial continuity to Elat; it has conceded the Rafah approaches and agreed to remove settlements; and it has given up the security use of the airfields in Sinai. It has recognized the existence of the Palestinian nation.

The settlements in Judaea and Samaria will no longer impress anyone because the Cabinet members have proved that they are capable of agreeing to the evacuation of settlements with the same decisiveness with which they declared their establishment. The government agreed to the establishment of Palestinian self-rule in Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip. It has, indirectly, handed over control of these territories to a group of countries of which Israel is only one. These changes are by way of being international agreements signed by the Government of Israel--and no future government will be able to ignore them.

I believe that the Alinement government would have tried, first of all, to save the only return remaining out of these miserable commitments: peace with Egypt. Because what Israel promised is a commitment which has already become accepted by the world, while what Israel ought to receive in return is being increasingly endangered with the passage of time. As-Sadat can change his mind about peace--Israel will find it hard to cancel the ideological and actual commitments it has made to the Arab side.

Israel, of course, has no interest in Egypt's going back on its willingness for peace, since even if it does retreat--who knows when--it will return to it. The articles at dispute can, in my view, be solved. They were solved much more elegantly in the separation of forces agreements we signed in the past. For example, the separation agreement says that neither of the two countries--Egypt and Israel--will resort to the use of arms, neither in the relations between them nor in the relations in the region. That is, contractual preference was given to peace over war.

We must remember that all three sides agreed that the language of the draft peace treaty was not to be changed and, in order to overcome the dispute, the signed treaty would be accompanied by letters of explanation--some of them exchanged between the two sides and some sent to Egypt and Israel by the United States.

As for the five clauses--one came close to being solved during the Atherton visit: Article VI, paragraph 5. The solution will be achieved through two letters: one to Egypt, making a distinction between an aggressive war (as the Arab countries) [as published] and a defensive war by Israel; the other to Israel, making it plain that the fact of its presence in the territories does not justify an attack on it and that it will be permissible for it to react to terror actions without the matter being considered as aggression.

Another issue is close to a solution: the revision of the treaty. In order to make a revision, it is enough for one side to demand this. However, in order to carry it out, the agreement of both sides is required.

I believe that a solution can be found to all three of the other issues, if both sides are indeed prepared to compromise on the formulation. As opposed to this, I do not believe that a real solution will be found to the Palestinian issue--neither at Camp David II nor at a summit conference following it. The real problem confronting Israel and Egypt is a sharp one: should they argue over the Palestinian issue when there is already a peace treaty between them, or make everything dependent on this argument and delay until a solution to it is found? If peace is signed between us, the chance of a solution to the Palestinian problem will increase. If the signing of the agreement is postponed, the Palestinian issue will again threaten the very fact of the chance of a dialog between the two countries.

The autonomy is not to the Alinement's liking. And the more it is restricted in the territory to which it applies, the better. Autonomy in only one of the territories (Gaza, let us say) would be the best of a bad job--in comparison with autonomy in all the territories (including Judaea and Samaria). Israel's genuine interest, in my view, lies in cutting of Gaza from Egypt and this severance may be obtained only through maintaining a military and settlement corridor of the strip in its southern section. I assume that we would not make the establishment of the autonomy in Gaza dependent on its establishment in Judaea and Samaria as well.

We regard the program for Palestinian self-rule as a commitment which was imposed upon us. This is a commitment which, even if it is honored, is not honorable in our eyes. We would have done everything to make its days numbered, to see it as no more than a transition arrangement to be replaced by a permanent arrangement which would be founded on territorial compromise.

Luckily for us, an option for negotiations over an arrangement founded on territorial compromise has been left in the Camp David agreement. This agreement refers in the positive to Security Council Resolution 242, which was in the past accepted by Egypt, Jordan and Israel. The real meaning of the resolution, as far as we are concerned, is the return of territories--not all the territories--to Jordanian-Palestinian rule and the holding on to territories (such as the Jordan Rift Valley, Gush 'Etzyon, the southern Gaza Strip) needed for Israel's security, in order to determine permanent, defensible borders.

Faced with the PLO, we would have tried again to speak with Jordan. It is true that Jordan's heart is not for the moment in the West Bank, but it may be assumed that when it becomes aware of the possibility of the creation of a PLO state west of the river, it will again feel that its security and safety are in immediate danger. 'Arafat, like Khomeyni, is not happy about kings' crowns and he presages for Husayn what Khomeyni presaged for the Persian shah.

We have had talks with Jordan. We never reached a peace treaty, but conditions were created similar to conditions of peace: open bridges, the prevention of terrorism, free trade, the foiling of threats from outside. Not one of these conditions has been canceled, despite Jordan's reservations.

I cast no doubts on the fact that Egypt will be happy to be rid of its current responsibility for the future of Judaea and Samaria--if an Arab replacement is found for it. It knows that it is not equipped with the tools needed for dealing with this issue and its involvement in it was brought about not on its initiative and certainly not with any great enthusiasm, knowing that it has no possibility of holding the negotiations over the future of the territories with even any sort of flexibility.

The Labor Party laid down for itself "red lines." It wants peace with Egypt and is prepared to pay an honest price for it, but not at the cost of Israel's security. It does not want to control a million Arabs and thus, in the course of time, endanger the Jewish character of Israel. It wants an honorable and permanent solution to the Palestinian problem. It is convinced that the genuine, fair and actual option for such a solution is the establishment of a Jordanian-Palestinian framework (the Kingdom of Jordan is already, in any case, such a framework) west of the Jordan and east of Israel's permanent borders.

Israel is not demanding declarative prestige in Judaea and Samaria, but the territorial deployment required by it in order to guarantee its security through a system of settlements and bases which will permit it early warning and a war on terror, and also space for tanks and infantry to defend our security. Without demilitarization we will not be able to budge even from parts of the West Bank, and such demilitarization can only be guaranteed by a treaty with Jordan.

Today the Alinement must relate to a policy overflowing with the Likud's contradictions. These contradictions are, for their part, causing lack of unity in relating to them. We must support peace with Egypt, despite our rejection of the autonomy in Judaea and Samaria. We must convince the Knesset to guide the Cabinet so that it presents reservations about the autonomy without any reservations contradicting the Camp David agreements.

We would aspire to rid ourselves of these contradictions if the holding of the negotiations were in our hands. We are convinced that it is possible to get rid of them--and also to guarantee peace with Egypt, security for Israel, an agreement with Jordan and a solution to the Palestinian issue.

LABOR PARTY BUREAU ENDORSES DOCUMENT ON AUTONOMY

TA250856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Feb 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau ended its discussions on the document concerning the autonomy about an hour ago. The document was unanimously approved as a vote, with two abstentions. Our correspondent on party affairs, Amnon Nadav, reports.

[Nadav--begin recording] Bringing this evening's debate to an end, Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres pointed out what he regarded as issues which stood out in the course of the deliberations as being acceptable to all in the Labor Party, namely: the settlements in the Jordan Valley, Gush 'Ezyon and the southern part of the Gaza Strip will not be removed and will not be transferred to Arab sovereignty; there were no opinions expressed against the need for signing a peace treaty; there was no clearly-expressed declaration about the need to hold negotiations with the PLO or the aspiration to establish a PLO state. And on this last issue, if we bear in mind various opinions expressed in the course of the debate--such as that by MK Yosi Sarid and Hayim Ramon, the secretary of the Young Guard--in favor of rapprochement with the PLO, it is possible to understand MK Peres' remarks this evening, which he probably directed at the party itself: The Labor Party has room for any Zionist-socialist view, he said, but the party has only one opinion on basic issues, the one which repeatedly gains the support of the majority.

Now, with the approval of the bureau and with its power of attorney, the party chairman will try to receive the support of other parties and public bodies for the document or for the positions expressed in it before he brings it to the party Central Committee for approval.

And on the question which remains disputed, the question of timing--when will the Labor Party initiate the debate on the autonomy issue in the Knesset, before the peace treaty is signed or afterward--no decision was made between the hawks and the doves, and the party chairman promised to bring up the issue for discussion by the party institutions soon. [end recording]

SHARON COMMENTS ON NEED FOR W. BANK SETTLEMENTS

TA231517 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 79 p 8 (Supplement) TA

[Report on interview with Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon by Ilan Kfir--time and place not given]

[Excerpt] Sharon knows that the conference at Camp David II might bring Israel closer to the moment of decision, to the moment of truth about the implementation of the autonomy plan. He has drawn himself an exact plan of the autonomy area and its territorial partitioning between Jewish settlements in security areas sensitive to Israel and defined Arab areas. With his famous drive, pace and sometimes undiplomatic style, Sharon has been applying pressure on the prime minister and his senior colleagues for several weeks to conduct profound deliberations on the autonomy plan and the deployment toward it. Up to now no time has been found for such comprehensive deliberations and the political negotiations now being conducted at Camp David do not promise that these will take place in the very near future.

"We have to make decisions--and quickly," says Ariq Sharon, "in order to know where we are going, where we will sit and where it is important for us to sit. The postponement of the deliberations delays decisions and is harmful to actions. The hourglass is gradually running out and the passing of time is not to our benefit. More than anything else, deeds are important in order to establish facts--and quickly."

The agriculture minister's critics maintain that Ariq Sharon's preparations only seek to drive a wedge in the political negotiations and to run them aground. Sharon reacts, "I am not tired of deeds despite all the attacks against me for setting up ghost settlements, as it were. The tragedy is that the settlements of the traditional settlement movements are ghost settlements today while real settlement and the real settlement spirit is coming from Gush Emunim. I was not put off by slanderous remarks coming from both the opposition and the coalition and I created faits accomplis. I will continue to establish settlements, pave roads and drill water wells."

His confidants say that the minister of agriculture's settlement strategy is dictated by facts in the field, the Arab population and topography, which turn on a warning light for Sharon who is highly sensitive about security.

"The breadth of Israel at Tel Mond and Kfar Yona is no longer 14 km but only 8-10 km," says Sharon. "The spread of the Arab population on both sides of the 'green line' has created a situation where about 300,000 Arabs are sitting on the throat of Israel in the coastal area, which contains about 60 percent of the Jewish population."

In Sharon's opinion, another security problem which was not properly dealt with by the previous government is the neutralization of the commanding areas in the region of Samur-Dotan in Samaria. From the region of Ma'ale Nahal and Sirat Al Dar, one has a clear view of the Hermon, Haifa University and the entire coastal plain. Ariq Sharon fears that in the framework of the autonomy, Arab control of these commanding ridges could create security risks.

And there is the problem of Jerusalem and its future to which the minister of agriculture is especially sensitive. The movement of the Arab population toward East Jerusalem, which is attracting these residents, has created an area of Arab fleshing out which has attracted 40,000 more Arab residents.

Ariq Sharon's solution: The creation of a territorial continuity of Israeli settlements which will flank the Arab population and population centers and areas of control in Judaea and Samaria. In Jerusalem, for example, Sharon is working to establish satellite towns, as he calls the Jewish settlements around the capital, which will surround the capital like a horseshoe with a 20-km radium. The Gush 'Ezyon settlements, Bet El and Ma'ale Ha'edumim are a part of this settlement belt aimed at closing off Arab expansion toward Jerusalem.

The minister of agriculture's aides maintain that Sharon formed this settlement plan 3 years ago and in talks he conducted with Gush Emunim settlers during that period he advised them to settle in these sensitive regions. A few months after the establishment of the Begin government Sharon appeared before the Cabinet and presented a detailed settlement map called the "Sharon plan" in accordance with these criteria.

Ariq Sharon maintains that from that time and to this day he has acted according to the principles of this strategy.

In that same Cabinet discussion and afterwards Sharon was attacked by his colleagues in the coalition and opponents in the opposition for encouraging the hasty establishment of settlements without any prior planning.

Sharon admits that there is truth to this claim. "It could have been possible to plan every settlement down to the last detail, to prepare the residential areas and agricultural areas, to pay attention to environmental planning and the standard of living. If we were to have acted in that way there would have been no results. What we could do without any difficulty 10 years ago was difficult to do 5 years ago and almost impossible to do a year ago. What is important now is not standard of living but getting a foot into the area.

"If we want to flesh out Jerusalem, it is important that we first get settlers into the field and later on build the school and kindergarten. In the reality in which we live and against the background of increasing difficulties, we must first of all insure that there be thousands of settlers at Teqo'a and not hundreds, and the same goes for Ma'ale Ha'edumim and Gush 'Ezyon. When you come to talk with the Americans and the Egyptians about the future of Judaea and Samaria it is important that we discuss things that exist, about facts in the field and not about an empty map.

"There have been many arguments concerning the policy that I have adopted and my answers have been: implementation and facts in the field. In Hares, which was set up only a few months ago, there are already 600 settlers and there are more to come. All this is taking place at a time when the settlement issue is not a central national target of the government. It is only now that the government is beginning to wake up and recognize the importance of the issue," Sharon says.

The minister of agriculture maintains that in the framework of the autonomy plan there must be a settlement balance between Jews and Arabs. If Jews are to have the right to settle in Samur or Teqo'a, then the Arabs must be insured a similar right about Nabulus.

Ariq Sharon goes further and says that more refugees should be allowed to settle in the region of Nabulus if vacant state land can be found for this purpose.

According to Sharon, this policy of Jewish and Arab settlement in Samaria in defined areas creates an egalitarian situation between the two peoples living in the area. Ariq Sharon does not explain that with regard to insuring Jewish settlement in the future in those places slated for it in accordance with government policy, he supports the principle of seizing state land and rocky territory--and, if necessary, the expropriation of land in uncultivated areas.

What power would the Arabs have under the autonomy?

According to what Ariq Sharon is consolidating today, the administrative council, which would be freely elected by the residents of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, should be permitted to deal with issues of public order, the collection of taxes, transport, law, health and education. On the issue of internal security and problems of terrorism Sharon maintains that at this stage one cannot give responsibility to this to the local police. However, if calm continues in the territories there will be nothing to prevent an expansion of the authority of that police force.

He assesses that if the danger of terrorism from within the territories decreases, Israel will have no reason to make arrests in the market of Nabulus and the alleys of Hebron. Ariq Sharon believes that the principles of mutuality in the living together of Jews and Arabs gives the implementation of the autonomy a chance. He does not fear extreme acts in the autonomy which might violate the balance and calm in the region. For example, if the local residents decide to block the road between Jerusalem and Bet El, Israel will block the road between Hebron and the Gaza Strip.

In his deployment toward the autonomy, the minister of agriculture has paid particular attention to the issue of the future of water sources in the territories. The water commissioner, Me'ir Ben-Shahar, and a team of experts active on this issue have prepared a long and detailed memorandum for the minister of agriculture in accordance with which water policy will be determined. The memorandum says that in view of the increased consumption of water by Israel and the residents of Judaea and Samaria, who are drawing from the same underground reservoir, it is essential to determine new rules for consumption.

According to the experts' memorandum it transpires that a third of Israel's water comes from a reservoir in Samaria and that the settlement of 'Emeq Bet She'an, Yizre'el, the coastal plain and the northern Negev use water from this source. The experts say that this situation creates the need to establish a Jewish-Arab supervisory and coordination body to supervise the allocation of water and, for example, prevent a situation arising in which the autonomy would have sole control over the water sources.

The document says if it is decided to increase the water allocation to Israeli settlements, one should act according to the principle of balance and increase the allocation to Arab settlement. The water experts maintain that it is inconceivable for the Hebrew population of Judaea and Samaria to start irrigating tens of thousands of dumans without the Joint Water Commission's approving this. Such unilateral exploitation of water sources would, within a short time, affect the salinity of the wells and cause orchards in Israel to dry up. At the same time the recommendations of the experts stress that water allocation will only apply to agriculture and industry and not to drinking water.

Ariq Sharon views Israeli control of water sources as being of national importance and a matter of life and death. When he initiated the deliberations on this issue in the Cabinet in coordination with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan he did this, so he says, in order to present Israel's position in an open and responsible manner and not in order to make the negotiating process more difficult.

The minister of agriculture is less worried than his colleagues in the Cabinet about determining a target date for the establishment of the autonomy. "It is not important to me if the date is in another year or in 1 year and 4 months," Sharon says. "The question is what do we do until that date. I admit that I am not calm. We can expect heavy American pressure and out of an awareness of the government's ability to stand up to pressures I would like to insure the minimum necessary in the field.

"If we had to decide today on the establishment of Qarne Shomron it is doubtful if in the present situation such a decision would be made. The government has not always supported and given sufficient priority to settlement in the territories. [paragraph continues]

We sometimes reach a situation where we pave roads out of our own [Ministry of Agriculture] budget and not out of that of the Public Works Department. At the same time I think that in the past 2 years a lot has been done in the field and the map of Samaria has been totally changed. All this--at a time of pressures from Vance, Saunders and others which caused difficulties in implementation and delays."

Ariq Sharon views the autonomy plan as determined at Camp David as the Balfour declaration of a Palestinian state. According to him, the autonomy can be a solution with which we can live. However, if we lose control over it, it might become a death trap. According to him, the success or failure of the plan is not a function of U.S. pressure or Egyptian pressure but a result of "what the Jews do."

"When I was a child," Ariq relates, "I once thought that we would be able to live without the Arabs. My grandfather taught me my mistake. Today I know and believe that the future of the region, including the success of the autonomy plan, involves living together."

EXPANSION OF ISRAELI W. BANK SETTLEMENTS REPORTED

TA251344 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Feb 79 p 4 TA

[By Yosef Tzuriyel]

[Text] The Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria have been joined by 110 families since the fleshing-out program began 2 months ago. In the coming 2 months about 300 more families will be absorbed.

The speed of absorption of these families depends on the speed with which prefabricated homes can be supplied to the 10 settlements which are being fleshed out, and on the laying of an infrastructure which will permit the absorption of additional families. In the framework of the budget to flesh out settlements which totals a little more than 700 million Israeli pounds, nearly 400 million pounds are intended for the purpose of housing and the rest for water, electricity, drainage, roads and public institutions.

There is a chance that within the next 2 months the number of Jewish families in the settlements in Samaria will be almost doubled, but only about 50 families will join settlements in the Judaea region.

This order of preference springs from the fact that most of the settlement effort is now being invested in settlements in Samaria, which were established only over the last 2 years, and, from the aspect of getting them established, they are still far from what has already been achieved in settlements in Judaea.

A survey of land in Judaea and Samaria intended to locate state land for the expansion of settlements which have already been established and for those due to be established is now being completed.

In the course of the survey, a tract of 350 dunams was located. This tract is between the temporary settlement Giv'on and An-Nabi Samu'il. It was purchased in 1947 by a Jewish company, in the framework of a campaign for the redemption of the land. This tract is now being prepared as suitable land for Jewish settlements which are to be established in the area.

Among the settlements which have been established over the last 2 years, Bet Horon and Giv'on are the only ones for which suitable land has not yet been located for the purpose of building and other needs.

PERMANENT HOMES FOR W. BANK REFUGEES PLANNED

TA231141 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 79 p 1 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] Beginning with the next fiscal year's budget and in accordance with the experience gained in the Gaza Strip, the military government in Judaea and Samaria is considering instituting programs to build permanent homes for the inhabitants of the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria.

Programs to remove the refugees from the camps have existed for a long time. There is a detailed program for the rehabilitation of the Ad-Duhayshah refugee camp, south of Bethlehem, and a program to construct permanent homes for the inhabitants of the camp near Nabulus.

Putting the plans into effect was postponed for budgetary and political reasons and because of fears and opposition on the part of the refugees. Next year, the military government intends to build several permanent homes as an experiment. A report on this was published this week in the East Jerusalem paper ASH-SHA'B. It was written in a hostile tone. It said that the military government intends to "exile" the refugees from the camps.

The DAVAR correspondent points out that the plans for the rehabilitation of refugees in Gaza were a partial success, particularly in recent years.

BEGIN, WEIZMAN FAVOR GRANTING ISRAELI ID CARDS TO GOLAN DRUZE

TA251929 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The Golan Heights, 25 Feb--Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman have expressed willingness to grant Israeli identity cards to Golan Heights Druze who have requested this. The ITIM correspondent learned of this today. The decision received the support of the Committee of Golan Heights Settlements and Knesset members from all the factions.

The issuing of the identity cards has been delayed due to the interior minister's objection. Education Minister Zvulun Hammer has promised the Committee of the Golan Heights Settlements to speak to the interior minister on this matter. The committee has also approached the interior minister, asking for a meeting with him on this issue.

FRG EDUCATION, SCIENCE MINISTER ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TA251632 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1503 GMT 25 Feb 79 TA

[Excerpts] Ben-Gurion Airport, 25 Feb--FRG Education and Science Minister Juergen Schmude arrived in Israel this afternoon accompanied by his wife, an entourage and a group of correspondents for a 1-week visit as the guest of the Cabinet.

The minister and his wife were received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Labor and Social Betterment Minister Dr Yisra'el Katz, the director general of that ministry, Mr Yisra'el Goralnik, FRG Ambassador to Israel Mr Klaus Schuetz and other personages.

Speaking to an ITIM correspondent, the minister stated that he did not bring with him any message from the FRG foreign minister, but that he would like to hear from his hosts about the latest developments in the area and on the chances for reaching a peace agreement with Egypt. He expressed the hope that peace would indeed come, because it is very much needed for the area and Israel.

He will report on his political talks to Chancellor Schmidt and to Foreign Minister Genscher.

The minister, his wife and the members of his entourage will probably meet with the prime minister, with the deputy prime minister, with the opposition leader, Mr Shim'on Peres, and with the secretary general of the Histadrut, Mr Yerucham Meshel. They will also visit the Knesset and tour various places in the country.

NETHERLANDS FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

TA241941 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 79 TA

[Text] The Netherlands foreign minister, Christoph Albert van der Klaauw, arrived this evening in Israel for a 3-day visit. He was received at Ben-Gurion Airport by Acting Foreign Minister Prof Yiga'el Yadin, Rahel Dayan--the foreign minister's wife--the Netherlands ambassador to Israel and the Israeli ambassador to the Netherlands.

Our correspondent Meron Tzur has learned that one of the issues which will be discussed with the Netherlands foreign minister is the joint development project for several African countries.

The Netherlands has agreed to send 800 soldiers to UNIFIL as of next month.

Meeting With Begin

TA251832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 25 Feb 79 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Excerpts] The meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and the Netherlands foreign minister, who is currently visiting Israel, ended about an hour ago at the prime minister's office. Our correspondent 'Amiqam Rotman is back from the prime minister's office.

[Begin recording] [Rotman] Prime Minister Menahem Begin, substituting for Foreign Minister Dayan, received the Netherlands foreign minister, Christoph van der Klauuw, saying it is a pleasure to receive the Netherlands foreign minister. We are friendly countries, he said, and there is a tradition of deep feelings of friendship between our nations.

FURTHER TEHRAN REPORTS ON EVENTS OF 23 FEBRUARY

Marv Dasht Palace Occupied

LD231758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] The luxurious palace of the Pahlavi dynasty in the Marv Dasht region on Minab River was yesterday occupied by Muslim Mujahedin, who were dispatched by the Islamic Revolution Committee in Bandar Abbas.

Izeh Police Commander Arrested

LD231759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The committee of Islamic culture affiliated to the Operational Staff of Iman Khomeyni has been set up in Ahvaz. Quoting Imam Khomeyin's Operational Staff, PARS reported from Ahvaz that following the arrest of agents of the former regime, the commander of the Izeh police department has been arrested and delivered to the Imam's staff in Ahvaz.

Arms Discovered

LD231800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a dispatch by our correspondent in Bandar Abbas the motor launch of Shahriar Shafiq, the former shah's nephew who has fled, was uncovered by the Mujahedin of the navy. Large quantities of arms were found in Shahriar Shafiq's motor launch and these were transferred to the navy armory.

National Guard in Shiraz

LD231804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] His Reverence Seyeed 'Ali-Asghar (Dastbod), who is responsible for the disciplinary committee in Shiraz, in a statement announced the setting up of the national guard and called on all the revolutionary forces to cooperate and assist toward the completion of setting up this organization.

SAVAK Agents Arrested in Qahramanshahr

LD231906 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A report has reached us from the Islamic Revolution Committee No Two in Qahramanshahr [formerly kormanshah] that another six SAVAK agents have presented themselves to the committee and have been put under arrest temporarily.

Instructions for Travelers

LD231922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] Iran Air has announced that women and people under 18 years of age should, before buying tickets, present themselves with their passports at the Prime Ministry and obtain an exit permit. Similarly, people who have purchased tickets for flights on 24 February should take the above step as soon as possible. According to this statement, the Prime Ministry is open to carry out this business today.

'Torturer' Executed in Rudsar

LD231148 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to our correspondent's dispatch from Rasht, another agent of the satanical regime was sentenced to death at 0200 this morning in Rudsar. According to the dispatch, Cap Monir Taheri had been transferred to Rudsar following the savage massacre in the Rex Cinema, Abadan, and after he had received an honorary military rank. In Rudsar, he had murdered three young people during the incidents of 26-30 December and, after fleeing to the city of Mianeh, was arrested by fighters of the city and handed over to the provisional Islamic committee in Rudsar.

Capt Monir Taheri was tried by Islamic canonical court on the instructions of the imam's committee on Tehran and in the presence of imam's representative in Rudsar. After admitting murder, he was sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out at 0200 today by the city's fighters and in the presence of a number of the families of the martyrs. Capt Monir Taheri was one of the officers who, after attending United States and after a record of torture in political prisons in Mashhad and Shiraz, had an active hand in the massacre in Abadan's Rex Cinema.

Message to Officers College, Writers

LD231400 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's publicity office has issued the following two messages: In his almighty name, the inaugural session of the officers college will be held on Saturday, 24 February 1979, in the presence of the commandant of the officers college, Col Sadeq Mahmudi. Dr Mohammad Beheshti will address the meeting. All professors, officers, NCO's, cadets, employees and soldiers should be present at 0800 tomorrow morning. Of course, the officers and professors should come in through the [words indistinct] entrance and meet in the gymnasium in order to be introduced to the new commandant.

In his almighty name, since our Islamic movement is a people's movement [Nahzat-e mardomi] which has allowed the people's personal abilities to blossom in this current favorable political climate, Imam KHomeyni's publicity office expects all writers, poets, artists and designers to send examples of thier works in case they may be of further service to this office. Should there be a need for elucidation in person, they could come to the following address from 1600 to 1900 daily: imam Khomeyni's publicity office, behind the Sepahsalar Mosque, Tehran, telephone No 304-201.

23d Brigade To Report

LD231436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following communique was issued by the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic National Army: All the zealous personnel of the 23d Brigade [word indistinct], the green berets and soldiers may take the opportunity to report for duty at the headquarters by 0800 on Saturday, 24 February in accordance with their canonical and national duty in order to carry out their entrusted tasks.

[Signed] The General Staff of the Iranian Islamic National Army.

Provincial Rally

LD231558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] His Reverence Sheykh Abolqasem Khaz'ali and the members of Imam Khomeyni's delegation, who are entrusted with the task of investigating the situation in the provincial cities of Qahremanshahr, Sanandaj and Abadan, yesterday arrived in Qahremanshahr, Kermanshah Province, where they attended a rally of thousands of men and women from this city in the Ayatollah Borujerdi mosque. The sheykh spoke about the Islamic revolution and its fruits, and the need for the people's unity and monolithism.

Navy Rangers Ordered To Report

LD231834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Bushehr's operational staff issued a statement today announcing the date for the return of the rangers of the Iranian National Navy to their garrisons. The statement said: In pursuance of the order of the illustrious leader of the revolution, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, all personnel, whether NCOS, officers or staff of the first brigade of rangers of the Iranian National Navy, should present themselves to the relevant garrisons tomorrow, 24 February, otherwise they will be considered AWOL.

Tabriz Radio Carries Notices

DO232030 [Editorial Report DO] Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian at 1527 GMT on 23 February interrupts its regular relay of Tehran Domestic Service with the following message: "This is Tabriz, The voice of the Iranian Islamic revolution. The Khomeyni Hospital announces that this hospital requires A-B positive blood. If you have this blood type, it is requested that you respond to the need of the Khomeyni Hospital in Tabriz.

"We have a message from the Operations Staff of the 2nd Airbase addressed to the personnel of the 2nd Airbase: With the exception of those elements that were assigned to the city by the base committee on 4 Esfand [23 February], all other personnel of the 2nd Airbase, Tabriz are ordered to report to their base on Saturday, 5 Esfand [24 February] for roll call at 0730. Those not present will be considered as AWOL.

[Signed] Operations Staff committee."

After a short musical interlude, the following message is broadcast: "Please pay attention, in the name of the Almighty, it has been learned that a number of Godless persons, instead of providing support to the Islamic revolution, have decided to take advantage of the situation and make money for themselves. They have set up (?roadblocks) on the roads and at the crossroads which have obstructed the roads and created a violation of the people's rights. These people are hereby notified that if they have not removed the (?roadblocks) within 48 hours--in other words during the period of 23 February to 25 February--then the guardians of the revolution [pasdaran-enqelab] will remove them, and their owners will be brought in for investigation by the committee.

"Peace be with you, [Signed] the Tabriz Islamic revolution committee."

At 1535 GMT, following the national news, Tabriz Radio says: "This is Tabriz, the voice of the Iranian Islamic revolution. In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. To our Islamic and struggling people of Azerbayjan: On the basis of orders from Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the sacred Iranian renaissance, all government workers must report to work. Since a large number of teachers are serving in the villages and countryside, in fulfillment of this order the noble people of the rural areas of Azerbayjan are expected to assist in supporting the teachers assigned to the villages. This is true for all teachers--whether from the teaching corps or not. (?The rural people) should insure that adventurers and godless persons do no (?harm) to the teachers or prevent them from fulfilling their duty.

[Signed] The Tabriz Islamic revolution committee.

"All officers, NCO's and soldiers of the Ajab Shir base are safe, and the entire base and all its personnel are under the authority of the Ajab Shir Islamic committee. The staff members are all well. All the officers who were granted furloughs from the Ajab Shir base, or who for any other reason are absent, must report to their units in the Ajab Shir base by tomorrow, Saturday. Otherwise, they will be considered AWOL."

At 1627 GMT the following announcement is made: "This is Tabriz, the voice of the Iranian Islamic revolution. In the name of the almighty, in accordance with the announcement of the General Staff of the Iranian National Islamic Army, the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of the Maragheh Base hereby announces to all personnel--whether officers, NCOs or soldiers--of the Maragheh Base that they should report to their base by 5 Esfand 57 February. Otherwise, they will be considered as AWOL.

"[Signed] On behalf of the head of the Islamic revolutionary committee, Maragheh base."

At 1657 GMT the following announcements are made: "All users of electricity are asked to assist the employees of the water and electricity department. They are asked to pay their outstanding debts. [Signed] The Revolutionary Committee of Imam Khomeyni in Tabriz.

"Likewise, all strugglers and respected people of the city of Tabriz and vicinity are requested to deliver to the Tabriz justice department, located on (Dara'i) Avenue, the people who have already been arrested, along with all documentary evidence concerning these criminals--whether they are military, city police, or from SAVAK. Thus, their crimes can be prepared and their actions tried.

"[Signed] The Revolutionary Committee of Imam Khomeyni in Tabriz."

Four British Citizens Arrested

LD231837 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's Operational Staff in Masjed Soleyman told PARS in Ahvaz today that four British citizens assigned to work in the army technical school in that city had been arrested and handed over to Imam Khomeyni's staff in Ahvaz, so that after further investigations they may be sent to Tehran. The Operational Staff in Masjed Soleyman said that these four individuals are charged with having misappropriated treasury funds.

Tehran Commentary Criticizes USSR

LD231842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1700 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Station commentary]

[Text] Nothing is more compatible with the principle of monotheism than work. Consequently, [words indistinct] if we are faced with a situation whereby one takes delivery of Iranian gas at the border, and then without any effort, sells it there and then at three times the amount one paid for it, then this is a clearcut case of swindle, even if one is the USSR. It is also clear that nearly all the economic activities taking place in countries like ours, such as land speculation, buying and selling, and renting of apartment blocs, as well as unequal deals, especially those concerning imports, are unacceptable to Islam.

Troops in Ilam

LD231826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to PARS Imam Khomeyni's Operational Staff in Ilam has called on all troops to report to their units as soon as possible.

Situation Calm in Kordestan

LD231819 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1730 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] On the return to Tehran of the government delegation which had gone to Kordestan, it stated that the report on the fall of Mahabad garrison is not true, that as a result of efforts by the Imam Jom'e and other imams in Mahabad, as well as the Muslim revolutionary forces, the situation is calm and the garrison and the region's towns have declared their total solidarity with the Islamic revolution. The patriotic Kurds are reported to have had a fundamental role in bringing about this situation.

Bill on Revolutionary Court

LD232117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] An informed source at the office of the prime minister told PARS that a bill on the formation of a revolutionary court will be approved by the Council of Ministers in the near future. With the creation of this court, the executive affairs of the Revolutionary Council, as well as those of Imam Khomeyni, will be referred to the revolutionary court.

Oil Refinery Working; Strike Denied

LD232334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2253 GMT 23 Feb 79 LD

[Text] We were informed by telephone from the Tehran oil refinery that the dear and noble workers are working in the refinery as usual. The rumor regarding a strike in the refinery is strongly denied.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 24 FEBRUARY

Finance Minister on Economic Policy

LD241050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In an exclusive interview with PARS, 'Ali Ardalan, the minister of economic affairs and finance, elucidating the government's course pertaining to the country's economic and financial problems, replied to questions put to him by the correspondents. In answer to a question on what the government's economic policy is in view of the existence of large companies, which are in effect dependent on big capital investments, and also in connection with medium and small capital investments, the minister of economic affairs and finance said:

(Regrettably, there are a great many companies--both factories and commercial companies--which are still government (?property) in which because of heavy capital investments made in the past, we are forced to maintain the situation as it was in the past. After investigating various aspects, it may be possible to alter the previous look of these companies. On the whole, such investigations need time and calm circumstances. In view of the fact that the government is a provisional one and has no long-term programs, the present policy is aimed at these companies resuming normal operations. But one question which will be dealt with very urgently is liquidating the board of governors and level of management of the large government companies, and liquidating those affiliated with the government. The new boards of governors in such companies will of course be effective in greater output and profitability.

He added: In the long-term program, the government plans to struggle against dependent capitalism. We are about to reach a phase whereby oil revenues will be exclusively devoted to production work, improving the economic situation and growth.

Tehran Cites Afghan Fighting

LD240724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Afghanistan's Islamic society has issued a statement announcing that the second half of last month [4-19 February] dozens of Afghan troops and communists had been killed by that country's armed guerrillas. The statement also said that other battles had taken place in the northern parts of that country in the course of which a number of guerrillas and government forces had been wounded and killed.

Requests To Freeze Shah's Assets

LD240727 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Swiss Foreign Ministry has announced in Bern that the Iranian authorities have asked that country's government to freeze all assets of the former shah and his family in Switzerland. In this demand the Iranian authorities announced that all the shah's assets and those of his family have been declared nationalized. A spokesman of the Swiss Foreign Ministry noted that the Iranian authorities' demand had been delivered to the responsible authorities in the Swiss Federal Government.

Sistan, Baluchestan Officials

LD241252 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, the Islamic Revolution Council of Sistan and Baluchestan has appointed Tadollah Keshtkaran as provisional supervisor of the province's governorate general. He began his duties today. In accordance with a decision by the Islamic Revolution Council of the Province of Sistan and Baluchestan, as of 20 February several organizations in Sistan and Baluchestan Province have been dissolved. The dissolved organizations are the following: the women's organization of the city of Zahedan's chamber of guilds and the regional education and training council. In accordance with the resolution of the Revolution Council, the responsible officials of the dissolved organizations are duty-bound to declare all the cash in their bank accounts, their assets and properties to the province's Islamic Revolution Council so that steps may be taken for relinquishing them.

Semnan Warned of Counterrevolutionaries

LD241258 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Imam Khomeyni's Revolution Committee in Semnan issued a statement today. The statement says: Because a group of counterrevolutionary agents and collaborators of the previous hateful regime have published statements throughout the town alleging certain people to be SAVAK collaborators--this in order to defame such people and to exonerate themselves--we therefore draw the attention of our dear fellow townsfolk to the following points:

1. We request all our Muslim brothers and sisters not to pay attention to statements which have no other aim but to sow discord;

2. Just as previously announced, only those statements are acceptable and valid which are endorsed by the Imam Khomeyni's committee; and

3. The traitors and counterrevolutionary agents, after a full investigation and study, will be made known to the fellow townsfolk by the Imam Khomeyni's Revolution Committee so that they may receive the appropriate punishment.

Tehran: March in Bahrain

LD241300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report, Iranian and Arab Muslims in Bahrain, in small and large groups, held a quiet march yesterday. Carrying pictures of the Imam Khomeyni and of Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, they chanted slogans and made speeches opposite the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of Iran's Islamic revolution.

Shah's Estate in Behshahr

LD241302 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] PARS reports that forces from the Revolution Committee of the provincial city of Behshahr yesterday impounded the cattle-breeding and agricultural complex of the (Rand) Company, which belonged to Mohamed Reza Pahlavi, which occupied an area of 10,000 hectares. Behshahr's Islamic Revolution Committee announced that troops from that committee had arrested six of the agents and mercenaries of the former regime.

Endowments Organization

LD241305 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Dr Naser Mirasi, the minister of information, propaganda and charities of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, this morning visited the headquarters of the endowments organization which has changed its name to the charities organization [kheyrat]. Dr Mirasi introduced Abolhasan Farrahi as his deputy in that organization, and explained the organization's future course of the benefit of the endowments staff.

Health Ministry Appointments

LD241440 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Dr Gholam-'Ali Akhavan Leylabaji was today appointed undersecretary for planning, supervision and continuation of plans by Dr Kazem Sami, the minister of health and welfare. The minister of health and welfare also appointed the following:

Abolfazl Mortazi Langarudi	Deputy minister of health in the workers welfare bank
Dr Hoseyn Parsa	Supervisor of the women's and babies' protection institution
Dr Morteza Mir-Forushan	Supervisor of the Darupakhsh charitable institution
Dr Mansur Shamsa	Advisor to the minister of health and welfare at the Red Lion and Sun Society
Dr Ahmad Nezam-Tehrani	Deputy to the minister of health and welfare at the rehabilitation association
Dr Hormoz Azar	Supervisor of the Medhi Reza'i cardio vascular therapeutic research center
Dr Nasir Eftekhari	Ad interim rector of the college of rehabilitation and social welfare
Dr Naser Ja'far-Amini	Managing director of the regional health and welfare organization of Tehran Province
Dr 'Ali Vakilian	Managing director of the regional health and welfare organization of Kerman Province
Dr Habibollah Hedayat	Provisional supervisor of the institute of nutrition and food industries.

Situation in Tabriz

LD241205 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report from Tabriz, sporadic shootings occurred last night from certain houses belonging to counterrevolutionaries and subservients of the former corrupt regime, especially around the airport, near the U.S. Consulate, Vali'ahd Street and Shams Tabrizi Street. However, as a result of the alertness of revolutionary fighters and the cooperation of inhabitants of Tabriz, groups of counterrevolutionaries were arrested and sent to Imam Khomeyni's committees in Tabriz.

Imam Khomeyni's central committee in Tabriz announced that the brave revolutionary fighters are engaged in searching for and arresting counterrevolutionaries with utmost care. At present, Tabriz is very quiet and the whole city is under the control of the revolutionary forces.

Imam Khomeyni's 14 committees in Tabriz have called on the people to adhere to instructions issued by their great eminences, especially the great leader Imam, and to refrain from attacking people's houses, thus not creating fear and intimidation: The names and addresses of counterrevolutionaries must be given to the committees, and the revolutionary fighters, appointed by these committees, must be allowed to make the arrests.

Border Tribesmen

LD241922 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch, thousands of border tribesmen in Khorramshahr have announced their solidarity with the Islamic revolution, at a rally held at the city's Imam Sadiq Mosque. During the rally representatives of the tribes emphasized the profound mission of the religious sector of society and called for more attention to be paid to this group. During the same rally, his Great Eminence Ayatollah Khaqani, referring to the universality of Islam and its great movement, called on the tribes to safeguard Iran's borders and to defend its territorial integrity.

SAVAK Collaborators in Najafabad

LD241926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS dispatch from Najafabad's Islamic Revolution Committee, Ali-Reza Taher, a former officer at the Najafabad police station, and three policemen named Ne'matollah Hashemizadeh, Baratali Qadirian and Mirqoli Mahmudi, and a pseudo-religious personality called Seyyed Mohammad 'Aqili, an employee of the Esfahan endowment department, who are accused of collaborating with SAVAK, have been placed in detention by the Islamic Revolution Committee and have already admitted to crushing the Najafabad people in the days after 'Ashura. Lieutenant Taher admitted to the Revolution Committee that in the days after 'Ashura he took part in attacks and set fire to several houses, shops and pharmacies in Najafabad, and that he had fired 100 rounds of ammunition in order to crush the people. He also admitted that the attacks were conducted under the supervision of Majors Zolfaqari and Hasanzadeh.

Arrest in Abadan

LD241930 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Captain Heydar Ja'farinia, one of the officers from Shushtar police station who is said to have played a part in the massacres in that city, was arrested in Abadan last night. According to a dispatch from a PARS correspondent who quoted the Operational Staff of the Imam Khomeyni in Abadan, on the basis of information supplied by the Operational Staff in Shushtar on the disappearance of the said individual in Abadan, the suspect was recognized by revolution fighters in that city and was subsequently arrested following a clash in Abadan's Khomeyni Avenue. The PARS correspondent in Abadan also reported that following the citizens' request for clarification of the dossier on the arson in Abadan's Rex Cinema, the city prosecutor has left for Tehran.

Army Hospitals

LD241932 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The General Staff of the Iranian Islamic Army issued a communique today. The text of this communique is as follows: All the honorable Iranian people are hereby informed that all the hospitals of the Iranian Islamic Army are prepared in cases of emergency to receive and treat sick or injured compatriots.

SAVAK Agents in Qa'emshahr

LD241936 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to our correspondent in Sari, the fighters of the national movement staff of Mujahedin in Qa'emshahr, formerly Shai, questioned the chief of police information, a retired police colonel, as well as another police officer and four SAVAK agents. Having collected the necessary dossiers proving their guilt, the four SAVAK agents as well as the retired police colonel were sent to Tehran.

Counterfeit Money in Tehran

LD241854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today by Imam Khomeyni's propaganda office: In the name of God, recently, a number of banknotes, bearing the imam's portrait, have been circulating. Certain uninformed people, entertaining very devout feelings, have been accepting such banknotes as official currency. It is herewith stated that those responsible for printing such banknotes are forgers and self-seeking individuals who will be prosecuted at the first available opportunity. It must be noted that so far no change has been made in the country's currency, whether coins or banknotes. Should any change take place it will be announced through the press, radio and television.

Entezam Press Conference

LD241825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] The government spokesman, Amir Entezam, has held a press conference. He said: The government appeals to all the people and urges them to forget the state of revolution, the thought that they are still in a state of war. The fighting is over and it is time for reconstruction. To do this, the government's instructions must be carried out. A group of supervisors and heads of various organizations, as well as of cultural, social and economic institutions, have already been appointed. He added that the head of the University of Tehran has been appointed and introduced, and that two other individuals have also been introduced as representatives of government shareholders in the industrial development bank.

Mr Entezam said: Furthermore, new appointments have been made in the case of the National Iranian Petrochemical Company, the national steelworks of Iran, and in Farah Pahlavi's special secretariat, so that the new supervisors may make the necessary changes. Moreover, the new chief justice of the Supreme Court, the supervisors for the former imperial organization, the social services, the Awqaf organization, the National Iranian Oil Company, as well as the Qazvin higher education institute, have also been appointed.

Continuing his remarks, the government spokesman added: The significant problem the country is still facing, and which the great majority of our people still think about, is that people continue to believe that they are still in a state of revolution and that they should keep up revolutionary works. Consequently, certain degrees of reaction or resistance are demonstrated against the appointments made by the government. This issue has obviously created some problems, which would of course be resolved following the necessary explanations given. As far as I am concerned, such resistance stems mostly from sympathy for organizations where people work. These people think that if someone is appointed by the government who does not enjoy the total support of everyone, then that appointment would be contrary to public opinion and the objectives of that particular organization.

The point is that nowhere in the world will you find such a situation; nor does this apply to Iran, particularly in view of the fact that, if we believe in implementing the principles we adhere to, as well as democratic principles, then we should accept that 35 million people in this country have accepted the leadership of the Ayatollah Khomeyni. He has appointed this government and it is the government which appoints responsible officials. Therefore, such appointments must be accepted as a religious and national duty, and work must get underway. Each day we delay in implementing these instructions another blow is dealt to the objectives of the revolutionary government. This in particular applies to factories where, unfortunately, a number of people believe they should have a hand in the appointment of the board of directors and the managing director, as well as their general policy. This is wrong and would harm the country's economy.

The government spokesman said: The government insists on having contact with all strata of society, so that it is aware of their views and chooses those who enjoy popularity where they work. However, it is up to the government to make the choice, for it is the government which is responsible. Therefore, we appeal to all our sisters and brothers and insist that they must forget that they are still living under a state of revolution, that they are still in a state of war. The fighting is over. We must begin the process of reconstruction. To do this, the government's instructions must be implemented.

Further on Entezam

LD241835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Press conference granted by Amir Entezam, Iranian deputy prime minister and government spokesman, to unnamed correspondent; date and place of conference unspecified--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] As you know, the people's sacrifice guerrillas held a meeting yesterday at Tehran University, at the end of which a resolution was read. What is the government's view about yesterday's rally and the resolution?

[Answer] I cannot make any comment on this, as I have not yet received an official report. However, as you know, all Iranian groups and people are free to hold rallies, meetings and publish articles. Yesterday's rally was one of these meetings. It has been reported to me that not all those who took part in the rally were members of the feda'i-ye group, nor were all of them leftwing. As far as I am concerned, 10,000 to 20,000 were members of feda'i-ye and the rest were Mujahid groups who simply took part to see what was going on.

[Question] Nowadays one hears that a group, supposed to be adherents to certain ideologies separate from religious ideology, claims that as soon as it wants to start its activities it is immediately labeled by the government as communist. Is this true?

[Answer] So far no one has officially applied to us to start any activity. Obviously, as long as they have not presented themselves and identified their ideology, then the government will not make any judgement on them. We are prepared to discuss this issue, once they apply.

[Question] A few days ago it was said that Engineer Bazargan, in an interview with a foreign paper, had said that the Tudeh Party is an illegal one under the existing laws. Does this mean that this party can no longer have any political activity in Iran?

[Answer] As you know, under the laws approved in the past, the Tudeh Party was banned. As long as new laws are not passed--thus rescinding the old ones--the restriction holds. The government is, however, prepared to discuss the point, once these Tudeh Party officials request it.

[Question] In certain parts of the country, especially where politics are discussed, the return of Mr Shayegan to Iran from the United States is interpreted as being the return of one of the candidates for the presidency. How true is this?

[Answer] I have nothing to say about his candidacy. However, what I can say is that he is one of those leaders who enjoys the support of our people. His services and self-sacrifice have always been admired by all of us. We are very happy for his return to the country.

Shiraz Airbase

DO242020 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1950 GMT 24 Feb 79 DO

[Announcement from Islamic Revolution Committee, Shiraz Airbase]

[Text] We have an important matter that our colleague from Tehran has (?sent). You are hearing this from Shiraz. We have an announcement to make: It is announced that all personnel of the Shiraz Airbase--whether officers, homofars, NCOs, staff, or soldiers--who are not present for duty by 0730 on 5 Esfand 1357 [24 February] will be considered as AWOL. They will be dealt with according to regulation.

[Signed] The Islamic Revolution Committee, Shiraz Airbase

Shiraz Radio Message to Prison Staff

DO242030 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1759 GMT 24 Feb 79 DO

[Unattributed announcement concerning prison officials and university guards]

[Text] Dear listeners, you are listening to the voice of Radio Fars. Pay attention to the text of a message: All prison officials and guards of the Shiraz University are hereby notified that without exception--whether office staff or not--they are to report to the Shiraz office of the traffic police tomorrow, 0900, Sunday the 6th of Esfand [25 February]. They are not to go to the prison.

Tabriz Radio Announcement

D0242040 Tabriz Domestic Service in Persian 1740 GMT 24 Feb 79 D0

[Text] Pay attention: There is a report that (Sarvan Javidi), a member of the city police guard force at Tabriz University, was among the antirevolutionary forces whose behavior was improper. Among other things he played an active role in the murders at the university. He has been arrested and is currently being held and thoroughly interrogated. Subsequently, he will be tried by the special Islamic court and held to account for his crimes.

Radio Bandar Abbas Appeal

D0242050 Bandar Abbas Domestic Service in Persian 1620 GMT 24 Feb 79 D0

[Text] You are listening to the voice of the Islamic revolution from Bandar Abbas. Dear listeners, a sick person in the Bandar Abbas maternity hospital requires O positive blood. Dear fellow city residents, if you have O positive blood, you are asked to go to the Bandar Abbas maternity hospital as soon as possible to save a person's life by giving some of your blood.

More Army Generals Retired

LD242150 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following announcement was issued by the General Staff Command of the National Iranian Army today:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Effective 25 February, 32 officers will be retired in accordance with Article 1 of the Officers' Retirement Law approved on November 11, 1964. All the officers mentioned below held the rank of major general:

Ebrahim Khalvati
Gholamreza E'temadi Tajbakhsh
Akbar Momeni
Kazem (Khazani)
Reza Noruzi
Mohammad Davarinezhad
Esma'il Qorbanian Mafluk
Hushang Salahshur
'Ali Asghar Dehpanah
Mehdi Rahimian
Mohammad Hadi Kashef
Mohammad 'Ali (Khamefekri)
Gholamali 'Alija'fari
'Abbasali Haqbin Totumchi
Hasan Haqayeqi
Mohammad Shahbaz
Ozir Salehipur
Sohrab Jahangari
Mohammad (Motri)
Ne'matallah Vaqar
Sadroddin Neyyeri
Qasem Behzadi
Hoseyn Sorudi
Reza Janab
Gholam Hoseyn Shams Tabrizi
Mohammad 'Ali Mo'attari
'Abbas Madani
'Abdollah Mojab
Morteza Modirzadeh Tehrani
Mohammad Sadeq Kavir
Hasan Abolfathi
Nader (Yusof)

More SAVAK Agents

LD242158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] Mahmud Hamedzadeh, the deputy chief of the SAVAK office of Gorgan who had fled to Noshahr, was arrested and handed over to the Islamic Revolution Committee today. Also, according to a PARS report from Esfahan, Keramat Sharafoddin, one of the SAVAK agents in Esfahan, was arrested today.

Another PARS report says that Hasan 'Abbasi has been arrested by the Najafabad Islamic Revolution Committee on charges of collusion with SAVAK, and detained at Najafabad detention center. According to a report received from the Ferdos Revolution Committee, three agents of the previous regime were arrested and handed over to the committee; these three were: Second Lt Mohammad Aryamanesh, Ne'matollah Sohrabian, and Zabihollah Ra'isi. The Ferdos SAVAK chief was also arrested.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 25 FEBRUARY

Tehran University Students

LD250822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 25 Jan 79 LD

[Text] This circular was issued today by Mr Mohammad Maleki, the provisional chancellor of Tehran University: This is to call on the Tehran University students who had been expelled during the past few years for political reasons from the university to refer to the provisional chancellor of Tehran University, so that proper decisions may be taken about their situation.

Army Prayer Houses

LD250820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following circular was issued this morning by the public relations office of the chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic Army: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: On the basis of instructions issued by the chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic National Army, all commanders of various units would do well to establish, on their own initiative, a prayer house in each building, provided with an adequate number of personnel. If the working hours happen to be too long, then ample opportunity should be provided so that Islamic precepts are adhered to.

[Signed] The public relations office of the chief of the General Staff of the Iranian Islamic National Army.

Army Appointments

LD251002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In the name of God: The following is the second series of appointments made by the National Iranian

Col Zeynol 'Abedin Tula'i, provisional supervisor [sarparast] of the state tribunal; Col Mohammad Hoseyn Haqiqi, provisional supervisor of Ahvaz armored division; Col Asghar Fattahi, provisional supervisor of Dezful armored brigade; Col' Ali Asghar Hoseyn Soruri, provisional supervisor of Ahvaz armored brigade; Col Mahmud Saba, provisional supervisor of Tehran training center cadre; Col Sa'id Keshvari, provisional supervisor of Chehel Dokhtar training centre; Col Nosratollah Naseri, provisional supervisor of Shiraz Airborne brigade; Col Manuchehr Farzaneh, provisional supervisor of Zahedan armored brigade; Col Shokrollah Chavoshinezhad, provisional supervisor of Zanjan armored brigade; Col Hasan Fuladi Najib, supervisor of Hamadan armored brigade.

Judicial Army Officers

ID251006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Feb 79 ID

[Text] The following circular was issued today by the National Iranian Islamic Army: In the name of God: The following officers are notified to report to the National Iranian Islamic Army defense organization, room 48 of the chief of General Staff on 26 February:

Judicial Col Qasem Mohammad Hoseyni; Judicial Lt Col Rezaqoli Golestanifar; Judicial Maj Mohammad Baqer Darabi; Judicial Maj Hoseyn Dabiri Moqaddam; Judicial Maj Naser (?Naser Rafa'i Nia); Judicial Maj Reza Reza'i Najdabadi; Judicial Maj Dr Naser Sami'i; Judicial Maj 'Ali 'Alaqehmandan; Judicial Maj 'Alireza Shirani Ridabadi; Judicial Captain Sa'id Malekzad; Adjutant Maj Fereydun Monnajemi.

[Signed] chief of General Staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army.

Infantry Officers

ID251010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Feb 79 ID

[Text] The following circular was issued today by the provisional supervisor of the 2d Infantry Division of the capital city: All officers of the former infantry division of the guard are required to report to the officers' club of the division on 26 February. Enter through the northern gate.

[Signed] provisional supervisor of the 2d Infantry of the capital city.

Ill To Be Sent Abroad

ID251014 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Feb 79 ID

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the relief committee of Imam Khomeyni: All hospitals and dispensaries throughout the country are required to report the names and medical records of patients who are gravely ill to Dr Hamze'i at the medical committee so that necessary measures can be taken to send them abroad for treatment.

Taxi Drivers

LD251018 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] All Tehran taxi drivers are invited by the propaganda committee of Imam Khomeyni to attend a meeting which is to take place on 26 February at Amjadieh Stadium in order to discuss the position of the former managing director of the taxi drivers' organization and the appointment of a new provisional managing director.

Khorramshar Port

LD251028 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In order to stop the collaborators of the former regime from escaping, commercial motor launches will be stopped from leaving Khorramshahr Port, unless the owners of the launches submit a guarantee.

Foreigners Leave Bandar 'Abbas

LD251030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a report by the provisional Islamic committee in Bandar 'Abbas, the British, American and Philippines' personnel of Stanwyck and (Browngo) companies, engaged at the naval installations, left Bandar 'Abbas for the United States.

World Islamic Leaders

LD251032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] On the basis of a PARS report, Hoseyn Mohammad, the leader of Islamic communities, together with eight other leaders of Islamic movement organizations in Asia, Europe and North America, left for Tehran yesterday in order to meet Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

Former Majlis Deputy Arrested

LD251214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to PARS, Iraj Mehrzad, former deputy from Shiraz at the Majlis, was arrested in Shiraz by the revolution guards. He has been sent to Tehran. Moreover, the house belonging to 'Azizillah Qavami, another Shiraz deputy to the Majlis, was occupied by the national troops and the revolution guards.

New Commander of Salmas Garrison

LD251218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Council has appointed Col Bizhan Etehadieh as the commander of Salmas--formerly Shahpur--garrison. Brigadier General Sorush, the former commander, has been sent to Tehran.

Army Chief of Public Relations

LD251210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The following statement was issued today by the chief of staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Effective 19 February Col Reza Mojtahedi is appointed as chief of the public relations office of the chief of General Staff of the National Iranian Islamic Army.

[Signed] Major General Qarani.

Shah's Yacht

LD251212 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Provisional Staff of the Islamic Revolution of Bandar 'Abbas announced that the yacht belonging to the former shah has been nationalized by the yacht crew. It is now public property. The yacht is expected in Abadan and Khorramshahr tomorrow. The statement issued in this respect calls on the people of Abadan and Khorramshar to refrain from attacking the yacht.

1,000 Afghans in Ahvaz

LD251202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The labor and social affairs committee of Imam Khomeyni's staff in Ahvaz reported today that so far more than 1,000 Afghan nations residing in Ahvaz have been moved from that city in order to be sent out of Iran.

'Counterrevolutionaries' in Tabriz

LD251152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Tabriz that a clash took place last night between the counterrevolutionaries and the forces of guardians of the revolution. Arrested during the clash was Capt Gholamreza Javadi, an active member of the Tabriz University guard [word indistinct], who had killed more than 12 people during a recent clash. In the course of the fighting, a revolution guard by the name of Samad Nobari was martyred.

Arrest in Ahar

LD251154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Committee of Ahar and Tabriz yesterday evening arrested a counterrevolutionary in Ahar and handed him over to the Revolution Committee in Tabriz.

Governor General of East Azarbayjan

LD251108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The interior minister today appointed Engineer Moqaddam Maraghe'i as the governor general of East Azarbayjan.

Esfahan Officers

LD251110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a spokesman for the Esfahan Islamic Revolution Committee, Brig Amin Afshar and Col Malak Mohammadi, the commander and deputy commander respectively of the Esfahan airborn unit, as well as Colonel (Khatib), commander of the steelworks garrison in Esfahan, have been sent to Tehran for trial. These officers are charged with opening fire on and killing people in Esfahan and Najafabad, as well as being engaged in antipopular plots. According to the same report, the accused will be tried by the Islamic revolution court in the near future.

Warning to USSR Denied

LD251500 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Diplomatic sources in Tehran today denied a report published in Saudi Arabia's AL-JAZIRAH to the effect that Iran had warned the USSR against interfering in Iranian internal affairs. The paper had, according to AFP, reported that His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni had warned the USSR to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Iran. Informed sources in Tehran said that the report carried by the Saudi paper to the effect that banning the activities of the communist party had resulted in serious deterioration of relations between Iran and the USSR is not true.

Exit Permit Criteria

LD251516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpt] This statement has just been issued by the Provisional Islamic Government: Since many of our compatriots keep coming to the office of the prime minister or other related organizations in order to obtain exit permits, thereby wasting their own time and interrupting certain important government activities, we are, therefore, informing our dear compatriots that at present only the following people can leave the country:

1. Persons under 18 years of age;

2. Students who have already received their acceptance from foreign universities and who have a valid visa;

3. Students who are on home leave in Iran and who now want to return to their respective universities abroad;

4. Sick people who cannot receive medical treatment in Iran and who have received the Health Ministry's recommendation to go abroad.

Political Refugees in USSR

LD251628 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1517 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A memorandum has been sent to Engineer Bazargan, provisional prime minister, by Iranian political refugees in the USSR as follows:

Thousands of Iranian political refugees living in the USSR pay their tribute to you and through you to the Iranian people for their glorious triumph, and feel very proud of the revolution the people have staged.

The heroic people of Iran, under the leadership of His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, toppled the blood-thirsty regime of the former shah, the puppet of American and British colonialism, through their consistent and resolute struggle, particularly during the past year, thus putting an end to the unbridled rule of the Pahlavi family, its collaborators and plunderers, as well as the associates of imperialism.

There is no doubt that this glorious victory by the Iranian people is an outstanding and honorable page in our country's glorious revolution. We Iranians, who have for long years been forced to leave the homeland because of the oppression of the former regime and its so-called security organization, are also happy that recent events have made it possible for us to return to the homeland and serve the glorious revolution. This would allow us to make all the experiences we have gathered during our asylum, and our scientific information and power available to our people and the glory of our homeland. We are quite prepared to return to our country and undertake our important and patriotic duties which would promote the objectives of the revolution. We expect the Provisional Revolutionary Government to issue the necessary orders as soon as possible for our return, and expedite the preparations of the necessary documents in this respect.

On behalf of the political refugees in the USSR.

Lebanese, Kuwaiti Delegations

LD251901 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] A representative of Imam Musa Sadr accompanied by a political, military and religious delegation from the Lebanese Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council and action movement of the mujhidin [as heard], who has come to Tehran to congratulate the leader of the revolution and the Iranian people on the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, today went to the imam's residence in Tehran.

The delegation also went to the office of the prime minister and congratulated Engineer Bazargan, prime minister of the Provisional Government of the Iranian Islamic revolution, on the victory of the Iranian revolution. In the course of the meeting, Prime Minister Bazargan said: The liberation and righteous movement of the Palestinian people and the Syrian and Lebanese Shi'ites are familiar to the Iranian people. The Iranian people, including Muslims and liberals, have so far been with this movement. At the meeting Mr Bazargan referred to the mysterious disappearance of Imam Musa Sadr, the attacks by the enemies of Islam and the freedom of Lebanese Muslims. He said: The Iranian people's demands for cooperation with and fighting alongside the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine were perhaps one of the organizational factors of the Iranian Islamic revolution.

A 285-member delegation from Kuwait, including clergymen, university professors, businessmen, workers, administrative officials and journalists, arrived at Imam Khomeyni's residence today to congratulate him on the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution. Our correspondent reports that during the meeting with Khomeyni the Kuwaiti delegation made remarks in support of the Iranian Islamic revolution. Following these remarks, His Great Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, addressing the delegation and also Lebanese visitors, described the Iranian Islamic revolution and the factors which led to its victory. Ayatollah Khomeyni referred to the difficulties relating to his residence in Iraq and his trip to Kuwait, and noted that the governments of Iraq and Kuwait were under pressure from the previous Iranian regime to restrict his activities in these countries. Imam Khomeyni said he had no complaints about the Kuwaiti and Iraqi governments in this regard. Imam Khomeyni also said: We shall bring the shah of Iran back to country wherever he may be.

Arms-Smuggling Ship

LD251740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] PARS reports from Abadan that a ship, named Arya Akhtar, carrying smuggled arms and equipment was discovered last night in the Khor Musa area by a group of revolution fighters. The ship was later transferred to another location by a group of Abadan armed people. Details relating to the matter have not yet been revealed, and investigation continues in this regard.

Khomeyni Receives Soviet Greetings

LD251926 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Vladimir Vinogradov, the Soviet ambassador to Tehran, went to Imam Khomeyni's residence yesterday to convey his government's congratulations on the victory of Iran's revolution. The Soviet ambassador also carried a message for Imam Khomeyni from the leaders of his country. In the course of his meeting with His Great Eminence the Ayatollah Khomeyni, Vinogradov said: We have all been carefully watching the developments in Iran. We would like to convey our congratulations.

Following the delivery of the message, Imam Khomeyni said: I express my thanks for the kind message sent by the leaders of your country. For more than 50 years under the Pahlavi reign we experienced great suffering. We have suffered under this man's weight for many years. Our nation was deprived of every form of freedom. Our country was deprived of a proper independence. Our nation was fed up with all these injustices and staged an uprising--a great Islamic uprising. This was not just a political uprising. It was a great religious uprising in which, despite all the difficulties facing them, the people with their empty hands overcame a regime equipped with foreign support, by their faith and fists. We are determined to struggle against those who want to interfere in our country's affairs with everything at our disposal.

In another part of his message Imam Khomeyni said: Our religious instructions are most progressive. Today is not like yesterday when one person would aspire to dominate every nation. The Ayatollah Khomeyni added: We call upon all powers not to interfere in the internal affairs of our country. If they do not interfere then we will have good relations with everyone. As I have often remarked, we are humanitarian, and our great prophet was humanitarian and worked for this end. In following our prophet we have good relations with all oppressed persons, provided there is mutual respect in bilateral relations. We would like to act in a peaceful and humanitarian manner. Our government will take action in trade and economic relations, as well as in any matter relating to the government, as it deems appropriate.

In conclusion, Imam Khomeyni said: The Islamic government operates under the supervision of the Islamic leaders. Oppression will not be expercised against anyone, no matter how weak he may be. I call upon the Almighty to make relations between all nations good relations so that our government may be independent with regard to its destiny, and so that no one will be able to interfere in our affairs.

Governors General Appointments

LD251822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] Interior Minister Javadi appointed the following new governors general today:

Engineer Rahmatollah Moqaddam Maragha'i as governor general of eastern Azerbaijan;

Dr Hamid Bahrami as governor general of Kerman;

'Abdolmajid Iran-Nezhad as governor general of Qahramanshahr [Kermanshah];

Esma'il Ardalan as governor general of western Azerbaijan.

Dismissals at Foreign Ministry

LD251824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Following the recall to Tehran of 26 ambassadors and 114 SAVAK agents in Iran's foreign missions on the order of Foreign Minister Dr Karim Sanjabi, two under secretaries and six directors of the Foreign Ministry were dismissed from their posts today.

Arrest of Police Officers

LD252121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report, Captain Mansur, the deputy head of Darab Police Authority, who was previously deputy head of the Abadeh Police Authority was arrested by the Abadeh Revolution Committee.

Similarly, the Revolution Committee in Shiraz reports that seven intelligence officers of the city's police authority were arrested and put in detention.

Arrest of Abadan Military Governor

LD252122 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] According to a PARS report from Ahvaz, Colonel Yaghma'i, the military governor of Abadan who is said to have been involved in the massacre of the people of this city, was arrested by the revolutionary fighters in Abadan.

Khomeyni Address

LD252240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1720 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[The Ayatollah Khomeyni's address to visiting Kuwaiti and Lebanese delegations at his residence in Tehran on 25 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] The Islamic revolution is a gift that Almighty God sent down from above to our nation.

We should praise Almighty God, and we cannot thank him enough. I must be thankful for this blessing, for this merciful gift and for the hardship and suffering that the Iranian nation has endured. I cannot be thankful enough.

It was the almighty's power that helped the nation, with empty hands, to uproot a 2,500-year old monarchy, while it was supported by the United States, and the Soviet Union was also behind it secretly; so was China and so was Britain. All the superpowers were behind it, and the monarchy possessed all the modern weapons, while our nation was empty-handed, without a gun, without anything. But there was the power of faith and the power of the almighty.

On the strength of the religious authority and the vote of the nation, we proceeded to appoint a prime minister by ourselves. The government of the day [the Bakhtiar government] also said that this prime minister will be arrested; so we said we would appoint another one. [laughter] Then there were other things and we decided that the Bakhtiar government ministers should not be allowed into the ministries. This was accepted by the staff. The government of the day even said that as long as the whole thing was a joke it had no objection to it. Earlier, the government had said that the prime minister thus appointed would be arrested, but the government later retreated a little bit. We also said the whole thing was actually serious and not a joke.

On this subject, the head of the government at the time said: So long as this remains a joke--the premiership, that is--we have nothing to do with it [several words indistinct followed by laughter]. In short, the matter came to this: The man who used to threaten us with detention had the desert man's treatment that Shahpur Bakhtiar possessed. I knew this type of desert temperament well, as we have maintained relations with the desert people and they, too, exerted power in our province. In short, he committed crimes and massacres and issued orders for a massacre; for as he confessed himself and his words were reflected in the newspapers saying that "this is by my order" and "nothing is being done except by my order." He has fled, and we declare to all foreign nations on behalf of the Iranian nation that this criminal should be handed over to us; this will be announced officially, and what I have just said is an announcement. We officially ask our friends abroad, wherever they find him, to inform us so that we may ask the relevant government for his return.

As for the shah,the situation is such now that no country in the world will accept him. Even his comrade-in-arms, namely King Hassan, was reported in the paper last night or the night before to have said he did not recognize the shah as king. Other governments have also said they would not accept him. Recently, however, the United States seems to have said it would accept him. Whether they accept him or not we will bring him back [applause] and the riches he has abroad. You don't know how much these people looted from us. At the moment the country left behind is disrupted. They destroyed everything, and then left. The oil, which should have been used in the nation's interests, was taken away in exchange for arms--for U.S. arms and U.S. bases in our country for the United States interests. It was not that the arms were ours; for we were not allowed to use them. They were purchased with our oil money and the Americans established bases here in case of a war against the Soviet Union. This is what kind of treachery there was.

Most nations may not know these facts and might think that the United States gave us arms, but that the arms were not useful to us. Even this would have been treachery--it would be treachery to sell oil to buy arms which were not useful to us or that we did not need. The point, however, is that the United States had it both ways: They took the oil and continued to possess the arms.

If someone wants to establish bases in our country contrary to all international norms we should be given billions of dollars in exchange for the bases allowed here. But our oil was carted away and the bases were established in exchange! So these were some of the grave treacheries that our nation endured. Their treacheries are too numerous to count. Only Almighty God knows the full extent of the matter. Perhaps at a later time those who know the facts of the matter, or even those who are not fully aware of these facts, will help reveal them.

At any rate, we are here now, and we are facing many disruptions, thanks to the treacheries they have committed. They turned our army into a nonnational army that was dependent on foreigners. Our economy was totally destroyed, so much so that now we need to import everything from abroad, whereas if even one of our provinces were properly cultivated there would be enough for all of us without any need for imports. We used to be an exporter--today we need to import everything.

They destroyed our livestock; they destroyed our pasture lands--our very rich pasture lands which were described by a delegation sent here by Queen Elizabeth as the most fertile in the world. These were handed over to others. They nationalized our pasture lands, or rather they took them away from the nation and handed them over to foreigners. They nationalized our forests and handed them over to foreigners.

I thank God that today their hands and the hands of their masters have been cut off. This is due to the power of the almighty. No power on earth can defeat a nation that is supported by the almighty as Iran is. I want my nation, your nations and all Islamic nations to rely on God in everything they do. All other powers are insignificant before the power of the almighty.

I hope that all the Islamic nations, which have been set against one another and become disunited because of the evil foreign propaganda directed against them will wake up and join hands and form a great Islamic government under the banner of "there is no God but Allah" and become victorious over the whole world.

Sanandaj Demonstration

LD252000 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1940 GMT 25 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Dear listeners, I would like to draw your attention to an important message:

A separatist group that is opposed to the interests of the Iranian nation and those of our Kurdish brothers is trying to disturb the situation in Kurdestan and to serve international imperialists in this region. In this connection, the separatists have been asked to stage a march in Sanandaj tomorrow. It is the duty of the patriotic Muslim people of Sanandaj, who have repeatedly proved their loyalty to Islam and Iran, to refrain from participating in such traitorous demonstrations, which are tantamount to selling the country to foreigners.

REPORTAGE ON EVENTS, INCIDENTS OF 26 FEBRUARY

Mahabad Garrison

LD261010 [Editorial Report LD] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0330 GMT on 26 February carries a report from its correspondent in Mahabad, Kordestan, on the situation there generally and in the city particularly. The correspondent, after briefly describing the Iranian revolution under the leadership of the Ayatollah Khomeyni, and citing the expression of support by the Kurdish people for the revolution, says: "There have been various rumors in connection with the fall of Mahabad garrison. It is necessary to point out that since the triumph of the revolution, Mahabad garrison has never been in the hands of counterrevolutionaries, and that the brave Kurdish people have not allowed any counterrevolutionary to have access to the garrison. Mahabad garrison fell to the young officers and the soldiers of the revolution who enjoyed the cooperation of the people," the correspondent says, and continues: "Right now, it is being run by these very soldiers, under the supervision of the provisional Revolution Council. As for the problem of separatism in Kordestan, which was reported by some foreign press and radios, it must be pointed out that [words indistinct] the people have strongly opposed such groups and individuals." The report then goes on to condemn the former regime and stress the people's support for the revolution.

Four Americans Arrested in Abadan

LD260826 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Abadan that last night four Americans working for a foreign company in Agha Jari, [name of company indistinct], were arrested while trying to escape. They were then handed over to Imam Khomeyni's staff by the fighters of Islamic revolution staff. The Americans were arrested in Agha Jari.

New Year's Bonuses

LD261058 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0830 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In a statement issued today, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry announced that following a report of refusals to pay the new year's bonus to civil servants, all workers and employers in both private and public sectors are informed that all agreements signed between workers and employers within the framework of workers participation and profit-sharing schemes are still valid, and that workers covered by the labor law may benefit from collective agreements and procedures envisaged in these agreements.

Khomeyni to Visit Qom

LD261050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Excerpts] His Great Eminence Imam Khomeyni is to arrive in Qom on Thursday. Our correspondent reports that on the eve of the imam's arrival in Qom, extensive preparations are being made by the people to welcome the imam and his guests. It is expected that many people will arrive in Qom from all over Iran. Considering that Qom's hotels can only accommodate 3,000, all other possibilities, including mosques, religious centers, schools and even private houses will be used.

'ARAFAT INTERVIEWED BY TEHRAN TELEVISION 22 FEB

JN231831 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1537 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

["Text" of interview given by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to Tehran Television on 22 February, attended by Dr Qotbzadeh, director of Iranian radio and television--read by announcer]

[Text] Question: The Iranian people would like to know the history of the relationship between the Palestinian and the Iranian revolutions, when this relationship started and whether it was political in nature.

Answer: This is a question that appeals to the heart, because these are good memories for both us and the Iranian revolutionaries headed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni. I recall that when we started our revolution we were undergoing hard times. Then a letter arrived from his eminence the ayatollah expressing a religious judgment, saying that those who struggle with the Palestinian revolutionaries are among the faithful holy strugglers [mujahidin].

Our relations then began to grow increasingly stronger. In addition, there are relations that I cannot discuss because they are not mine, but belong to history. I can say that we are brothers under both good and bad conditions, each in sympathy with the other's wounds. This relationship is not political. It is strategic, with deep roots and divergent dimensions. Hence, when I wrote my letter to His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni upon his return to Iran, I said: The truth has come and falsehood has vanished. I also said that this revolution's light will spread throughout the region, for it belongs not only to the Iranian people but to honorable and free people all over the world. Therefore, we always say we are two revolutions in one revolution and two peoples in one people. As a result of this, our enemies understood the earnestness of our stand. This was made clear in Dayan's statements when he went to meet with As-Sadat's prime minister in the United States.

Naturally, we must understand something else, the fact that you were oppressed. You were fighting both against this regime and with us. There are Iranian martyrs who died while fighting with us. There are Iranian captives in the Zionist enemy's prisons. For the enemies know that once those captives triumph, they will continue their activity, because the Palestinian revolution is their revolution and its victory is their victory.

Question: In view of the answers you have given, does this revolution influence some of the moderate states, taking into consideration the fact that David Owen made a statement in support of the shah?

Answer: We must realize that what has happened in Iran has [word indistinct] what preceded it. A new era has begun, with all of its ramifications. When Waldheim's assistant came to me--and there was a large battle going on in the south, in which the enemy savagely shelled the Palestinian camps and Lebanese villages for over a week, resulting in many victims--he spoke about the border strip and Camp David, and I told him: Don't talk to me about the border strip and Camp David. Ask me about the Iranian revolution, because it has changed all these calculations and we must change Kissinger's [word indistinct]. Otherwise, don't talk to me of petty matters. A new era has now begun and, indeed, a new era has begun. The nation has not witnessed such an era for a very long time. Today the United States has to standpoints: The first holds that, after the events of Iran, calculations must be reconsidered and the Israelis and Egyptians must not be rushed into signing the Camp David document, for this would be merely ink on paper following the basic changes brought by the Iranian revolution, both in the region and our Islamic nation and in world strategy.

The other standpoint says--in the White House, of course--yes, we have lost in Iran, but let us hurry As-Sadat in signing, so that we can have ample time thereafter to deal with the Iranian revolution and its results. Those two standpoints currently exist, but I cannot say which will prevail. As-Sadat is among those with a personal interest in hurrying the agreement, as are the Israelis. We must take this into consideration. To be honest, I cannot tell which of the two points of view has succeeded. As revolutionaries we must take everything into account in facing all these possibilities. I must also add that at the western summit meeting a difference occurred over two points. This was a difference on the Middle East settlement--true, the difference was not large, but it did exist. Even more important is the fact that their assessment of the Iranian revolution was incorrect and all their expectations were wrong.

Question: Despite their love for the Palestinian cause, the Iranian people lived under a dictatorship that allowed them no opportunity to learn anything about Palestine. Now that you have established an embassy for Palestine here, do you intend to undertake information activities to acquaint the Iranian people with the Palestinian cause?

Answer: I disagree with you on this question. The Iranian people, who have been martyred with us and are fighting with us, know a great deal about the Palestinian cause. Some 48 hours ago, while we were in His Eminence Ayatollah's Khomeyni's house, a child no more than 7 years old came in and asked: Are you Abu 'Ammar? He then said: I dream of being martyred in Palestine. This means that the Palestinian issue lives in the Iranian people's conscience. Undoubtedly however, the office is intended not only for the purpose of acquaintance, it goes deeper than that. It is an indication of the strategic relationship that links us with this revolution and these heroic revolutionaries under the leadership of this revolutionary sheykh--His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Question: The people and the revolution are struggling through various factions. For instance, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has its own ideas. Since you have preserved unity among the ranks, how do you view the same issue in Iran and the role being played by the various forces here?

Answer: We should realize that the real [words indistinct] of the Palestinian revolution is Fatah, and not because I am the commander in chief. I am saying this as Fatah's official spokesman and as the leader of all the Palestinian revolution's groups.

Fatah is the backbone of the Palestinian revolution. Fatah was the one to begin armed struggle. After the 1967 defeat, everyone collapsed and it was Fatah that began the fighting again. Fatah is the group that protects national unity. At the recent Palestine National Council meeting we said that the independent Palestinian decision is represented by two groups: the independents and Fatah. It is true that there are other organizations. However, this is part of the democratic process, which we have adopted. Despite the fact that we differ in viewpoints with it [presumably the PFLP], we are determined to safeguard this decision. We do not do this because we were the first to carry arms but because of our military, political and organizational scope. Fatah constitutes 90 percent of the Palestinian revolution's military forces. Fatah is the Palestinian revolution's political weight. It has the majority of votes in the popular organizations. We allow all other organizations to voice their opinion. However, we do not allow them to interfere in the decision, particularly as some organizations have extensions within the Palestinian body. Thus, we do not permit the imposition of tutelage on the Palestinian revolution or the Palestinian body.

I would have preferred you to ask me the following question: Do you prefer to have the decision in your hands or not? Naturally, I did not answer this question. However, I have explained our experience to you. Whether to adopt it or not is now up to you. Our experience in the Palestinian revolution was a democratic one.

'Arafat, Qotbzadeh Comments

JN231946 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1537 GMT 23 Feb 79 JN

[Exchange of remarks by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Iranian radio and television Director Dr Qotbzadeh following interview 'Arafat gave Tehran television 22 Feb]

[Text] Immediately after brother Abu 'Ammar answered the question, television Director Qotbzadeh said: Dear brother Abu 'Ammar, I am extremely happy to meet you in person. I was also extremely happy when you received me in your office in Lebanon. I hope you are satisfied with the Iranian people's hospitality to you. I hope that the relations between our two revolutions will deepen. We will follow in the footsteps of your revolution's experience. We hope and believe that Palestine will be liberated.

In reply to Mr Qotbzadeh's speech, brother Abu 'Ammar said: My brother, I am here as your brother and as a brother to this people and this country. Allow me to say a last word to this heroic people: With your revolution's triumph, the lesser jihad has triumphed and now the time has come for the greater jihad. Now is the time for building the post-revolution society. Do not think that his eminence the ayatollah will be able to change things overnight. Do not think that the provisional government [words indistinct]. The enemy is lying in wait. After the revolution, the enemies increase in number. Some are known and others are concealed. You are carrying out a pioneering revolution, which must be aware of the large plots facing it. We must therefore be patient, so as to be able to face our responsibilities in what follows the revolution. If you are to help us and if these two revolutions are to reach the gates of Jerusalem, you must be aware of all the dangers. Otherside, you will not be able to help us. Therefore, I call on you to be vigilant and cautious. I call on you to uphold unity, unity, unity. God be my witness, that I have cautioned you.

KUWAITI PAPER REPORTS ON TUDEH-FEDA'I-YE DIFFERENCES

LD261044 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 26 February--The USSR has informed the head of the Iranian revolutionary government Mehdi Bazargan that it has no connection whatsoever "wither closely or remotely" with the Iranian leftist Feda'i-ye movement, Kuwait's AL-WATAN writes today.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the paper says that the reason for the rift between Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Feda'i-ye is the refusal by the movement to accept an offer of two portfolios in the government of Dr Bazargan. The movement, the paper writes, had asked Khomeyni to allocate four portfolios to it which would include the interior and foreign ministries, but he refused because of circumstances which the paper describes as difficult. The paper also reports that "sharp and deep" differences have developed between the communist Tudeh Party and the Feda'i-ye movement which make it difficult to reconcile their objectives. The Tudeh Party, the paper writes, prefers to cooperate with the Bazargan government and support its stand.

OPPOSITION LEADER COMMENTS ON TUDEH PARTY POSITION

NC251211 Paris AFP in English 1148 GMT 25 Feb 79 NC

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25 (AFP)--The Iranian Tudeh Party must remain banned if it is seen to be working for the Soviet Union, veteran opposition leader Ali Shayegan--regarded as a possible presidential candidate--told AFP today.

Mr Shayegan, who returned here on Wednesday after 21 years of exile in France, said in an interview that all political organisations and even para-military movements should have freedom of opinion, expression and action, "except those working for foreign interests which must be completely banned."

Mr Shayegan declared: "If the Iranian Communist Party is working for the Soviet Union it must not enjoy any liberty. In the same way, any party working for the United States, or which would defend the former regime, must not have any freedom."

Strongly condemning any attempt to divide the government from the governed, he said such action was against the national interest and must be crushed "without pity."

Mr Shayegan criticised "little reactionary mullahs (Muslim priests)," and said Shi'ite Muslim leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni would not fall "into the trap of the ultras."

Urging leftist movements to accept the ayatollah, he noted that they were patriotic and that their cooperation would guarantee the revolution's success.

Mr Shayegan also called for the army to be completely dismantled and replaced by a democratic national guard.

NATIONAL VOICE OF IRAN URGES UNITY AGAINST 'ENEMY'

TA230438 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Azerbaijani at 1745 GMT on 21 February broadcasts a commentary stressing the importance of unity and solidarity among the revolutionary forces. After noting that the revolution had destroyed a 2,500-year-old despotism, the commentary stresses that "all the works of the shah's regime have been destroyed and the foundation has been laid for a regime based on independence and national interests."

The commentary also notes that "this is only the beginning" and that "there is still a long way to go before the nation achieves its aims." It stresses that "hard work is needed to completely eliminate all the remnants of the ousted imperial regime." The commentary stresses that all national and democratic forces, irrespective of their professional, political or ethnic affiliations should act in unity. "They should not ignore the fact that the enemy--the remnants of the ousted regime and lackeys of imperialism--is acting against our nation and its revolution."

NVOI: PEOPLE SHOULD COOPERATE WITH NEW REGIME, RETAIN WEAPONS

TA231698 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran [NVOI] in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 16 February carries two commentaries on the situation within Iran. The commentaries call upon members of the Iranian armed forces to cooperate with the revolution's authorities and for striking workers to return to their jobs in order to support the Bazargan government.

The first commentary says: "Dear fellow citizens, the enemies of Iran and its revolution are struggling to defeat the revolution and to turn the clock back. They are trying to soak Iran's revolution in blood. The first stage of the revolution has been a success and it is the duty of every patriot and freedom-loving person to struggle and cooperate on the road to final victory. It is the final victory that will change Iran into a free country. All agents of imperialism headed by U.S. imperialism will be expelled from the land. Thus, the people will themselves rule their country. Dear workers, peasants and fellow Iranians, take advantage of the occasion. The Pahlavi monarchy and its mercenaries looted the nation and paralyzed its economy, taking the country's wealth to foreign lands when they themselves escaped from Iran."

The radio continues by reminding air force cadets that Ayatollah Khomeyni has expressed his thanks and appreciation to them for their participation in the revolution, adding that the people are further advised that a number of elements in the country are "engaged in creating disorder and confusion." The radio points out that it is the duty of all members of the armed forces to join hands and cooperate in preventing these acts. According to the radio, these elements are the "tools and mercenaries of foreign countries" who are trying to return conditions to the status quo ante. The radio urges members of the armed forces to unite with the people and the armed Mujahidin to prevent the "handful of saboteurs and subversive elements" from succeeding in their actions. "Save and protect your bases and do not let them be infiltrated by anyone," the radio says. The ayatollah has reminded all members of the armed forces that through their cooperation with the rest of the people in the country they can contribute to the creation of a "truly free and independent Iran" and government, the radio adds. The cooperation of all segments of society at all levels is of vital importance.

The radio concludes by reminding the people that "all the evil forces of imperialism are trying to strike and inflict heavy blows to the young body of the revolution. Thus, it is imperative that the fighters and revolutionaries at all levels not lay down their weapons."

The second commentary discusses a statement issued by the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party in support of Khomeyni's message to striking workers and employees in various fields asking them to return to their jobs and resume their respective duties. According to the radio, the Central Committee's statement warns the people that the "enemy is not yet totally and completely defeated." The committee advises all people that in order "to uproot and kick out the remnants of imperialism and the former regime, it is the duty of every citizen to cooperate in the resumption and reactivation of the wheels of the national economy in every phase and segment so a new, free and democratic Iran can be established." The radio concludes by noting that the NVOI supports Bazargan's government. It advises its listeners to cooperate and assist in the betterment and improvement of the nation's economy.

NVOI ADDRESSES STUDENTS; VIEWS OIL POLICY

TA240216 [Editorial Report TA] The Clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 20 February carries two commentaries on developments in Iran. The first commentary calls on students and educators to guard the victory of the revolution. It says:

"Today thousands of students returned to their classrooms, thus, demonstrating in support and memory of their brothers, who gave their lives for this revolution. They also vowed to fight for and protect the revolution and its results and victories, and to continue until the final victory. One can see the great joy and happiness on all of the school campuses as students congratulate one another on their victory over the bloodthirsty regime, after a year of struggle and battle against the corrupt regime and its armed-to-the-teeth military forces and the hatred SAVAK. Students are back at their schools which are now free from suppression.

"Our victory today is the fruitful result of the struggle by all peoples, especially the youth, students and educators. We are indebted to them for their vital role in this endeavor. The butchers of SAVAK for many years shed the blood of our freedom-loving young students. They sent many students either to prisons or to the army camps, and a number of these brave men were tortured and slaughtered by order of Nassiri [executed SAVAK chief]. Many of these young men, especially in recent months, through their unending struggle, have created innumerable epics of bravery, and never once did they falter. Presently, it is these brave young men on various campuses and school grounds that are fighting to protect the fruits of their victory as their most precious gains and assets.

"Dear students, educators, teachers,and professors, these victories were achieved at the price of the blood of your fellow students and fellow educators. Defend this great victory with your life, for it is a victory that has been achieved after 25 years of struggle, sacrifice and bloodshed. Try to protect this victory and do not let any elements or evil groups create division among you. Avoid dualism, division and factionalism. We still have a long road ahead of us toward the final victory. Be alert and contribute to the cause of revolution through creative work and creative confrontations."

In its second commentary, the NVOI says: "Iran must be the master as well as the controller of her resources." It says further that the studies and surveys by representatives of His Eminence Khomeyni on the production and export of petroleum have been interpreted by certain elements as being related to the issue of exporting an unlimited amount of oil to the United States and other countries. These elements are spreading rumors that without oil from Iran the West will collapse. "It is an undeniable fact that our oil can and must be produced not only for domestic consumption but also for export. But the amount of oil to be exported must be in proportion to the needs of our country for other commodities. This is something that the masses of people will have to decide. Undoubtedly, oil exploration and exploitation in our country must not be at such a level that it should cause its rapid depletion and termination or extinction. The United States with her recently-discovered oil resources in Alaska still insists on importing a major portion of her petroleum needs from other countries in order to preserve her own domestic resources while exploiting those of other countries. Iranian oil production has thus far enriched the former shah and his entourage, but it has not rescued our people from poverty. Our people are still poor and hungry."

The commentary concludes by calling for meaningful cooperation between developing countries and the West and stating that times have changed. "Things are no longer the same as during the Mossaddegh era. The Iranian people can now use oil as the most powerful weapon to defend their national interests."